THE MONTH

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS' BILLS.

(*From our own Reporter.*)

THE second meeting of this Committee was held on Monday, the 15th ult., when the examination of witnesses was proceeded with. Mr. Roebuck, in the absence of Mr. Baring, occupied the chair during the greater part of the day.

Dr. QUAIN, the first witness called, stated that the proposal to restrict the compounding and dispensing of medicines to properly qualified persons had his hearty approval. He thought that every dispensing chemist ought to have some knowledge of the properties, uses, and doses of the various medicinal substances prescribed by physicians. There might be two examinations; a moderate one, which all persons commencing business as dispensing chemists should undergo, and a higher one for those who desired honourable distinction as scientific pharmaceutists. The minor examination of the Pharmaceutical Society was well adapted for testing the essential qualifications of dispensers of medicines. The examinations might be safely committed to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, provided they were placed under Government control. This provision was most important, for examining bodies had been known to misuse their powers. The Council as at present constituted was above suspicion, but it might degenerate. Government control would prevent the sale of diplomas; it would also prevent any alteration in the character of the examinations. He did not think that the examined and registered men would come into rivalry with medical practitioners, but he thought that a clause ought to be inserted in the proposed Act prohibiting regular prescribing by chemists and druggists.

Mr. ROEBUCK: Would you allow the druggist to make up a draught for me, if I simply asked him for something to cure a headache?

Dr. QUAIN: Certainly; I would only prohibit systematic medical practice.

Mr. ROEBUCK: That is to say, you would allow him to prescribe on Monday, but would prevent him continuing his treatment of my headache on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dr. QUAIN admitted that it was exceedingly difficult to define systematic practice; but he was convinced that much harm was done by prescribing chemists, who were constantly treating diseases improperly. The retail trade in poisons, as well as the compounding of medicines, ought certainly to be confined to qualified chemists. People at present in business could not be expected to undergo an examination. They ought to be recognised as properly qualified chemists. Simple drugs, such as castor oil, rhubarb, and Epsom salts, might be sold by any one; but the sale of rat poisons and other dangerous articles ought to be confined to chemists and druggists. He had been given to understand that the majority of chemists not registered under the Pharmacy Act were, without doubt, quite as well qualified as some pharmaceutical chemists; but he would send a prescription to a pharmaceutist in preference to a non-pharmaceutist, provided he did not know the latter. Many serious mistakes were made by chemists through ignorance or carelessness; but, on the other hand, errors in physicians' prescriptions were sometimes corrected by chemists.

The examination of Dr. Quain lasted three hours, and the above is merely the essence of his evidence. Some puzzling questions were put to the witness by Sir John Shelley, Mr. Ayrton, and Mr. Roebuck, respecting the meaning of the terms "drug," "poison," "prescribing," and "compounding," and on the necessity for using Latin in prescriptions.

Dr. WILSON, the next witness, was of opinion that the public required legal protection against incompetent dispensers. He did not think the minor examination of the Pharmaceutical Society sufficiently high for persons undertaking the business of dispensing, and would, therefore, recommend its extension. He would not allow such dangerous articles as rat poisons to be sold by unqualified drugsters.

Mr. MACKAY, of Edinburgh, a member of the Pharmaceutical Council, gave a description of the minor examination as pursued in Edinburgh. He did not think that the proposed regulations of Bill No. 1 would much interfere with freedom of trade. He was strongly in favour of local boards of examination. With respect to the sale of poisons, he admitted that it was desirable that certain articles should be confined to the hands of qualified chemists and druggists. If a poison clause were added to the Bill, it would be necessary to add Toxicology to the subjects of the minor examination. The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society would facilitate any proper mode for admitting chemists to membership, but could not consent to recognise the present outsiders as "pharmaceutical chemists." He believed that there were a few chemists and druggists who were in no way inferior to the majority of pharmaceutical chemists. The Edinburgh chemists were strongly in favour of Bill No. 1; the chemists of Glasgow had not given it their support.

Before Mr. Mackay had finished giving his evidence the Speaker's bell rang, and, in accordance with the rules of the House, the sitting of the Committee terminated.

On Thursday, the 18th ult., the Committee consulted for more than two hours with closed doors, and then proceeded with the examination of the witness who had been part heard on the previous meeting.

In reply to questions put by Mr. Baring, Mr. Ayrton, and Mr. Black,

Mr. MACKAY said that the Pharmaceutical Council would not object to the appointment of Government assessors. There were about 120 pharmaceutical chemists in Scotland, and about 450 non-pharmaceutical chemists. The Bill of the Pharmaceutical Council was favourably received by the medical profession of Edinburgh at first; but a majority had afterwards petitioned Parliament against both Bills, believing that the passing of either would bring the chemists into rivalry with medical practitioners.

After thanking Mr. Mackay for his evidence, the Chairman (Mr. Baring) requested that the room might be cleared for a short time.

When the doors were re-opened,

Mr. BARING said that the Committee had agreed to three resolutions, which he would read to the gentlemen in attendance. These were:—

"1. That no compulsory examination or registration shall be required of persons now carrying on the trade of chemists and druggists.

"2. That the Bill do provide that no other person shall, after a day to be fixed by the Bill, sell certain dangerous drugs to be scheduled in the Bill, unless he shall be examined and registered.

"3. That the Committee do proceed on this day week with Chemists and Druggists' (No. 2) Bill."

In spite of the last resolution, there was nothing done until Monday the 29th ult., when the Committee had a private sitting. The lobby was crowded with members of the United Society of Chemists and Druggists, but no one was called to give evidence before the Committee. When the sitting was over, Sir John Shelley informed the chemists in attendance that the Committee required the names of ten members of the Pharmaceutical Society and ten members of the United Society, who, together with three Government nominees, might form a Provisional Council to carry out the objects of the proposed Government Bill.

Last Monday the Committee sat again, and, after a short consultation in private, informed the chemists and druggists in attendance that they had agreed to certain resolutions, and would recommend Government to introduce a new Bill based upon them. The question of legislation for chemists and druggists is, consequently, left for the new Parliament to settle.

LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

The Bill introduced by the Government to amend the law of partnership has just been printed, as amended in committee, and the following is a condensation of its clauses:—

"1. The advance of money by way of loan to a person in any trade upon a contract in writing that the lender shall receive a rate of interest varying with the profits, or shall receive a share of the profits, shall not, of itself, constitute the lender a partner, or render him responsible as such.

"2. No contract for the remuneration of a servant or agent of any person engaged in any undertaking by a share of the profits shall, of itself, render such servant or agent responsible as a partner, nor give him the rights of a partner.

"3. No person being the widow or child of the deceased partner of a trader, and receiving by way of annuity a portion of the profits made by such trader in his business, shall, by reason only of such receipt, be deemed to be a partner or subject to any liabilities.

"4. No person receiving by way of annuity or otherwise a portion of the profits of any business, in consideration of the sale by him of the goodwill of such business, shall, by reason only of such receipt, be deemed to be a partner or subject to liabilities.

"5. In the event of any such trader being adjudged a bankrupt, or entering into an arrangement to pay his creditors less than twenty shillings in the pound, or dying insolvent, the lender of any such loan shall not be entitled to recover any portion of his principal, or of the profits or interest payable in respect of such loan, nor shall any such servant or agent, or such widow or child, or such vendor of a goodwill, as aforesaid, be entitled to recover any such profits as aforesaid until the claims of other creditors for valuable consideration in money or money's worth have been satisfied."

UNITED SOCIETY OF CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

The following address has been forwarded to us for publication:—

"THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE TRADE.

"The Executive Committee hasten to respond to the anxious inquiry of the trade as to the progress of legislation affecting their interests.

"The Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to consider the two Chemists and Druggists' Bills met on the 11th May, and proceeded to hear evidence in favour of Bill No. 1. Dr. Alfred Swaine Taylor, throughout an examination of two hours, sustained his unswerving conviction that the sale of dangerous drugs and poisons should be subject to legislative restriction. Mr. Simon, the Medical Officer of the Privy Council, confirmed Dr. Taylor's evidence.

"On the second day's sitting Dr. Quain gave similar evidence to that of Dr. Taylor and Mr. Simon, and emphatically denounced "free trade" in physic as dangerous to the public. Dr. Wilson expressed his opinion to the same effect, and with equal force and clearness. Mr. Mackay, Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society at Edinburgh, was then examined as to the general feeling of the trade in favour of Bill No. 1. The chemists and druggists of Scotland, he said, had petitioned for it, and those of Edinburgh were unanimously in its favour; but on the question being put to him by Sir John Shelley, whether the chemists and druggists of Glasgow were in favour of it, he was sorry to admit that Glasgow opposed it. Just at this juncture the Speaker's bell rang for prayers, and the Committee adjourned.

"Whilst the Committee and the public were departing, Lord Elcho collected some friends of the two Societies around him, and read a paper which he said he hoped would prove to be the basis of a good understanding between them. Hurried expressions of readiness to make reasonable concessions were uttered on both sides, and eventually Lord Elcho's suggestion for a conference was agreed upon. In accordance with this arrangement, Messrs. D'Aubney and Wade, with Mr. Buott, the Secretary, who were deputed on behalf of the United Society, met the President and Vice-President with the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society on Wednesday, the 17th May, at the Pharmaceutical Institution in Bloomsbury-square.

"After various remarks of a preliminary character on either side, Mr. Buott observed that the object of the gentlemen representing the United Society in coming there was to hear any proposition in harmony with Lord Elcho's suggestions, which the gentlemen representing the Pharmaceutical Society had to advance. The President said—'We are quite willing to learn what you object to in Bill No. 1, and to consider whether any alteration can be made to meet your views.' Mr. D'Aubney replied that that would be useless, because the whole Bill was objected to as being upon a wrong basis; and Mr. Buott added, that unless the Pharmaceutical Council had some distinct proposition to make, the meeting might as well be ended.

"Mr. Hills here stated, and was confirmed in his statement by the President, that it was proposed to alter the 16th Clause in Bill No. 1, so as to give all chemists registered under the Act a vote at the Society's meetings.

"Mr. Wade said that would not meet the case. Unless chemists of equal qualification were put upon an equal footing with those who were members of the Pharmaceutical Society by payment, the United Society could not support their Bill. 'You wish,' said he, 'to secure both registration and examination, and you base your claim upon the machinery you possess for such a purpose. These are the only points at issue, and constitute the rights we claim for ourselves as independent tradesmen. Can you suppose that we shall surrender them to a Society which has failed in its objects, and whose Council represents only the dispensing interests of the trade without an equivalent? Concessions must be made on both sides: we are willing to concede even these important rights, but every man placed upon the register must have a voice in the nomination and election of the governing body.' Mr. Wade then introduced the following propositions:—

"1. The Pharmaceutical Society to register, at a certain fee, all chemists and druggists in business at the time of the passing of the Act as pharmaceutical chemists.

"2. All future candidates for registration to be examined by the examiners of the Pharmaceutical Society.

"3. Those passing the minor examination to pay a fee of not more than two guineas, and to be called chemists and druggists, with the right to retail and compound articles scheduled as dangerous drugs and poisons.

"4. Those passing the major examination, at a fee of not more than five guineas, to be styled pharmaceutical chemists.

"5. All pharmaceutical chemists to be eligible for membership of the Pharmaceutical Society.

"6. Those now to be incorporated without examination to pay a subscription of two guineas annually upon election to membership, and to be entitled to all the privileges of old members.

"7. All interests to be represented on the Council, and every pharmaceutical chemist to have a vote in the election of Council.

"The President and Mr. Hills saw no particular objection to any of these clauses except No. 1, which proposed to make common the title of pharmaceutical chemist, which was secured to the present members by charter.

"Mr. D'Aubney and the Secretary urged the right of representation with election; and Mr. Buott wished it to be distinctly understood that, in making these propositions, the right of nomination must be considered as a *sine quâ non*, because election without the right of nomination would be a mockery. On separating, it was agreed that the conference should be renewed on the following morning, when the parties would meet at the House of Commons. No sooner, however, had they met, than it was ascertained that the pharmaceutical representatives were disinclined to the interpretation of Clause 7, in the sense of nomination with representation; so the conference had no practical result.

"On the third day the Committee consulted for more than two hours with closed doors, and having examined Mr. Mackay for a few minutes, they ordered the room again to be cleared. On our re-admission the Chairman read the following resolutions:—

"1. That no compulsory examination or registration should be required of persons now carrying on the business of chemists and druggists.

"2. That no other person shall, after a day to be fixed, sell certain dangerous drugs to be scheduled in the Bill, unless he be examined and registered.

"3. That the Committee do proceed on this day week with Chemists and Druggists' Bill No. 2.

"Not one of these three simple, brief, but conclusive resolutions touched a single object aimed at by Bill No. 1 to give it legislative life; so, in Parliamentary phraseology, the Bill was thrown out.

"The day on which the above resolutions were adopted was Thursday, the 18th May.

"Considerable excitement prevailed amongst the metropolitan chemists when the news that the Bill of the Pharmaceutical Council was lost became known, each expressing his joy or regret according to his individual bias.

"On the following Tuesday the members of the Select Committee had a private consultation, and agreed to further adjourn the consideration of Bill No. 2, from Thursday the 25th May to Thursday the 1st June.

"The interest which had been excited by the announcement of the Bill of the Pharmaceutical Council being thrown out, might be supposed to have been almost extinguished by this unexpected adjournment; but at 12 o'clock on the 1st of June it was evident, from the crowded appearance of the corridor of the House of Commons leading to Committee Room No. 16, that something very much like a sensation had been created amongst the chemists and druggists of London, who, anxiously and patiently, but cheerfully and hopefully, waited on the outside of the Committee Room from 12 till half-past 2 o'clock, when all hopes and fears were alike set at rest by the advent of Sir Fitzroy Kelly and Sir John Shelley, who explained to their respective adherents the result of the long deliberation which had taken place. Sir John Shelley stated that the Committee had agreed to the preamble and first three clauses of the Bill No. 2, and recommended that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society and the Executive Committee of the United Society should each give in the names of ten gentlemen, who, together with three gentlemen to be nominated by Government, should be appointed under the Act to carry out its provisions.

"The Executive Committee furnish this simple narrative of a long protracted and arduous struggle for independence without any comment of their own, believing that every incident it records will prove of interest, not only to the chemists and druggists now in business, but also to their successors, and stand upon the page of history in bright testimony to the persevering efforts which have been made to elevate the trade, and to place their rights and privileges upon a sound legislative basis for the future.

"By order of the Executive Committee,
"Cyrus Buott,
"Secretary."

"United Society of Chemists and Druggists,
"20, New Ormond-street, W.C.,
"June 10, 1865."

The final sitting of the Select Committee of the House of Commons has taken place since the above address was received. The result of that sitting is noticed in our own report of the proceedings of the Committee, given under the head of "Parliamentary Intelligence."

LAW AND CRIME.

GREAT ROBBERY OF CHEMICALS.

At the Middlesex Sessions, on the 23rd ult., Robert Warn, 42, described as a chemist, William Strank, 27, William Brooks, 30, and John Mansell, 31, were charged with stealing 60 gallons of aniline and 136 gallons of benzol, the property of Messrs. W. Lawrie and Co., chemical manufacturers at Bromley. Early in the proceedings the prisoner Mansell exonerated Brooks and Strank from any complicity in the transaction.

It appeared that there must have been a previous arrangement to steal the property of Messrs. Lawrie, or other property must have been stolen, because letters were produced in Warn's handwriting, dated April 23 and May 1 and 3, offering aniline and benzol for sale to Mr. W. Wilson, a manufacturing chemist in Edward-street, Stepney. Mr. Wilson informed Messrs. Lawrie of the offer, and police-constables Cable and Lambert, of the K division, were employed to watch the premises in Crisp-street, Bromley. On the evening of the 5th ult., Mansell, who had for two years been in Messrs. Lawrie's service, was seen to go into the yard, accompanied by Strank, who works with a horse and van, and lives in Wood-street, St. Luke's. It was nearly two hours after the usual time of closing the works. Strank came out and returned with a horse and van. Six cases and four casks, containing aniline and benzol, of the value of £95, were then placed in the van, which was afterwards driven away to 9, Upper North-street, where Mansell resides. Warn came out of that house, wished Mansell "Good night," and went on with the van to Strank's residence in St. Luke's. Brooks then came out, and assisted in backing the van into the yard, after the horse had been stabled, and the prisoners were taken into custody. It was half-past 2 o'clock in the morning, and, in reply to a question why he was up so late, Brooks said he had purposely stayed up to help them to place the van in the yard. Warn said that the contents of the van were his property, and if they doubted it he would give his name and address.

The prisoner Mansell called Shears, the prosecutor's watchman, as a witness. Shears admitted that he had had several conversations with Mansell about robbing the prosecutors; that he had helped to load the van on the night of the robbery; and that Mansell had promised him £12 as his share of the plunder.

On cross-examination by Mr. Metcalfe, it appeared that the witness had informed his employers of Mansell's intended robbery, and, by their instructions, had acted the part of an accomplice. It appeared also that the witness had given similar information on a previous occasion, and had had his leg broken in consequence.

The Rev. Mr. Denton, incumbent of St. Bartholomew's, Moor-lane, and a number of other witnesses, gave Strank a good character.

The jury found Warn and Mansell Guilty, and acquitted Brooks and Strank.

A previous conviction for forgery was proved against Warn, and it was stated that the prosecutors' losses during the time Mansell had been in their service had amounted to £500.

Warn was sentenced to seven years', and Mansell to five years' penal servitude.

On the application of Mr. Metcalfe, the Court ordered a reward of £2 to the witness Shears for his conduct in the matter.

GOSSIP.

On the 17th ult. an entertainment was given to Mr. William Charity, the manager of the Wholesale and Export Drug Company (Limited), by his late employers Messrs. Barron, Harveys, Becket, and Simpson, in one of the rooms of their extensive warehouse, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. A handsome gold watch was presented to Mr. Charity in the name of the firm by Richard Barron, Esq. An elegant and valuable time-piece from all the persons employed by the firm was also presented to the late warehouse manager as a mark of their esteem, and in recognition of the uniform kindness they had received at his hands during the past fifteen years. The task of presenting this splendid testimonial was most gracefully performed by Mr. Williams, the laboratory superintendent.

Mr. Daniel Corfield, chemist and druggist, of the Commercial-road, has committed suicide by swallowing a very large quantity of cyanide of potassium. Pecuniary difficulties are stated to have been the cause.

Mr. George Watson has purchased the business of the late Mr. F. Rubbra, chemist and druggist, 94, Milton-road, Gravesend.

James Rock, chemist and druggist, High-street, Maidstone, has made an assignment of all his personal estate and effects, except leasehold estates, for the benefit of his creditors. Trustee, Mr. D. Bumsted, 86, Lower Thames-street, London.

Mr. Brewster, chemist and druggist, 42, Sidney-street, is about to remove his business to 20, Crescent, Cambridge.

Mr. John Knight, chemist and druggist, the successor of Mr. Eddy, has removed his business from 91, City-road, to 30, Crown-street, Clerkenwell.

The stock-in-trade of John Wilson, chemist and druggist, King's Cliffe, was sold, on May 17th, under deed of assignment.

Mr. E. B. Short has succeeded Mr. L. A. Collander, chemist and druggist, in his business at 23, High-street, Barnstaple.

Mr. Shaw retires from the firm of Cox and Shaw, chemical manufacturers, Liverpool, and Mr. Cox will in future conduct the business on his own account.

Mr. Henry Large has taken the business of Mr. James Caunce, chemist and druggist, Lytham.

J. H. S. Wildsmith, chemical manufacturer, Wolverhampton, has made an assignment of all his estate and effects for the benefit of his creditors, in case he should make default, in payment of all his debts in full, with interest, by four equal instalments. Trustee, Mr. H. Dingan, Walsall.

George Earnshaw, chemist and druggist, Ashton-under-Lyne, has made an assignment of all his estate and effects for the benefit of his creditors. Trustee, Mr. R. J. Fletcher, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Mr. Arthur Watlings succeeded Mr. Gurney in the business at Truro, and not Mr. Martin, as stated in our last.

Dixon Young, chemist and druggist, Sunderland, has made an assignment of all his estate and effects for the benefit of his creditors. Mr. Moon, wholesale druggist, York, trustee.

J. H. H. Howard, chemist and druggist, Northleach, has made an assignment of all his estate and effects for the benefit of his creditors. Trustee, Mr. C. Marsden, wholesale druggist, 36, Queen-street, Cheapside.

Mr. James Hunter has entered upon the business lately in the occupation of Messrs. Grant and Donald, chemists and druggists, 141, Union-street, Aberdeen.

The firm of Ness and Garnall, manufacturing chemists, Gilesgate, Durham, is dissolved, and claims upon the late firm will be discharged by Mr. W. Ness.

Mr. George Horsfall retires from the firm of Horsfall Brothers, chemists and drysalters, Leeds, and Messrs. Henry and Thomas will in future conduct the business on their own account.

The strike at the Bill Quay Chemical Works, in the occupation of Messrs. Burnett and Company, has ceased, by the "carbonaters" accepting the terms of 3s. 6d. per ton offered by their employers.

J. W. F. Leigh, chemist and druggist, 129, Grange-road, Bermondsey, has agreed to pay his creditors a composition of 5s. in the pound, by two equal instalments.

At the village of Stonegrave, near Malton, some rascal has been scattering about pieces of beef containing strychnine. It is said that most of the sheep-dogs in the neighbourhood have been poisoned.

The partnership hitherto existing between John and James Farmer, manufacturing chemists, Gorton Brook, West Gorton, Manchester, is dissolved, and the business will in future be conducted by Mr. James Farmer.

The firm of George Lewis and Company, chemists and druggists, 3, Southampton-row, Holborn, and at 86, Seymour-street, Euston-square, is dissolved, and Mr. George Lewis Rees will in future carry on the business.

Mr. R. Morris, chemist, Market-street, Lichfield, has retired from business, having disposed of the same to Mr. Charles Seifferth.

Mr. James Ellis has taken a chemist and druggist's business at High-street, Eccleshall.

The stock-in-trade of the late Dr. Erskine, chemist and druggist, 138, George-street, Aberdeen, has been sold by auction.

The creditors of Thomas Whitehorn, chemist and druggist, Cardiff, have agreed to accept a composition of ten shillings in the pound, in three equal instalments.

Mr. John Norman, chemist and druggist, Smith-street, Warwick, has disposed of his business to Mr. James Waddy.

George Ransom, chemist and druggist, Keelly, has assigned his estate and effects for the benefit of his creditors. Trustee, Mr. B. Sollitt, Kingston-upon-Hull.

Mr. William Shaw will in future carry on the business hitherto known as the firm of Shaw and Jessop, manufacturing chemists, York, Mr. T. J. Jessop having retired.

The firm of Messrs. Solomon Mease and Son, chemists and druggists, North Shields, has been dissolved. All debts on the co-partnership concern will be discharged by Mr. Solomon Mease, 130, Norfolk-street, North Shields.

The firm of Benjamin Foster and Company, manufacturing chemists, Beeston Royds, Leeds, has been dissolved.

Mr. F. R. Clarence has commenced business as a chemist and druggist at 12, Crouch-street, Colchester.

Mr. Alfred Collins, a commercial traveller in the employ of Messrs. Rushworth and Company, druggists, Leeds, was found dead in a railway carriage at Knottingley station. No external marks of violence were on his body. A case of drugs and an umbrella were found in the carriage. A post-mortem examination has been ordered.

Matthew Pound, wholesale chemist and druggist, 60, Leather-lane, Holborn, has agreed to pay 10s. in the pound, by two instalments, 7s. 6d. and 2s. 6d.

A new shop front in the mediæval style has just been executed by Messrs. G. Treble and Son for Mr. Dickens, chemist, Aylesbury. It is remarkable for lightness and elegance.

Mr. William Raymond King (late of Norwich) will at midsummer become successor to the drug, dispensing, and patent medicine business, Market-place, Bath, for so many years conducted by his father, Mr. J. Raymond King, now of Walcot-parade, in same city.

GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

Burn, Robert, Oakham, chemist.
Cherrington, Barchel, Donington, chemist.
Haines, J., and J. F., Jubilee-street, Mile-end, cork cutters.
Howell, Richard, Leeds, soda-water manufacturer.
Massey, Joseph, Oldham, chemist.
Smith, Henry, Eccleshall and Gnosall, chemist.
Stewart, R., Bolton, manufacturing chemist.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Cox and Shaw, Liverpool, chemical manufacturers.
Farmer, J. and J., West Gorton, Manchester, manufacturing chemists.
Foster, B., and Co., Beeston Royds, near Leeds, manufacturing chemists.
Lewis, G., and Co., Southampton-row, Holborn, and Seymour-street, Euston-square, chemists.
Mease, S., and Son, North Shields, chemists.
Parr, H. W., and Co., Wigan, manufacturing chemists; as far as regards H. W. Parr and J. Bennett, jun.
Shaw and Jessop, Septen, Yorkshire, manufacturing chemists.
Wright and Lemmon, Minories, manufacturing perfumers.

REVIEWS

A Dictionary of Chemistry. By Henry Watts, B.A., F.C.S., etc. London: Longman and Co., 1865. Parts XXIV. and XXV., completing Vol. III., and Parts XXVI. and XXVII.

It is once more our pleasing duty to notice the progress of this magnificent work. We have so often spoken of it in terms of praise that any laudatory phrases must now be mere repetitions of what we have said before. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to a short account of the principal subjects treated of in the four parts that have appeared since February.

In Part XXIV. appear two excellent articles on the Mercury Radicles and Bases, by the Editor; and four very elaborate ones on Metals, Metalloids, Metallic Alloys, and Metallurgy, from Dr. Paul. Following these, we have a most masterly essay on the Atomic Weights and Classification of the Metals, from the pen of Dr. Odling, in which that acute reasoner proves most conclusively that if, with Gerhardt, we double the atomic weights of oxygen, sulphur, and carbon, we must do the same with all the metals except the alkali group, the nitrogen group, silver, gold, thallium, and one or two more. This article states the case of the new school against the old with so much force and clearness that it must make numerous converts; and we advise those of our readers who do not subscribe to the Dictionary, and who are lingering on the confines of the old system, to expend half-a-crown in purchasing the part (XXV.) containing this most convincing exposition of the latest doctrines.

There is also a very full account of Meteorites, which will be read with great interest, now that those singular bodies are attracting so much speculation. Methylamine and its congeners, and Molybdenum, receive the attention they deserve, the account of the compounds of the last-named element being most interesting.

The pharmacist will find a complete monograph on Mercury and its compounds that cannot fail to be of the greatest value to those engaged in the preparation of mercurials. Hydrate of methyl (wood spirit) is treated of at considerable length, and a long article on Milk, by the late lamented Mr. C. E. Long, may be perused by all with great benefit. Morphine and its compounds are, of course, dwelt on at great length; and the article on Muscular Fibre, by Dr. Michael Foster, of Huntingdon, a new contributor, shows that the sharp-sighted and judicious Editor has added another talented writer to his already copious list. Mysorin brings the third volume to a close, completing the first half of the alphabet.

We fear that the fourth volume will hardly contain the other thirteen letters of the alphabet, if proper justice is done to the numerous important subjects it will contain. We grant that several of the remaining letters are short ones, such as Q, U, V, X, Y, and Z; but P and S are far beyond the average. Taking up the first book that comes to hand (Miller's Elements, 2nd edition), and examining the index, we find that, allowing for "Acids," all indexed under A, the space occupied from N to Z is as near as possible two-thirds of that given to the first half of the alphabet. Now, having only one volume more, Mr. Watts must, of necessity, cut down the rest of the articles to one-half their merited length. On examining the first two parts of Vol. IV., it will be seen that N, a rather short letter, takes up nearly one-quarter of the space left at the Editor's disposal, leaving only six parts for the important letters O, P, R, S, T, and W, under which will come such lengthy articles as oxygen, phosphorus, platinum, potassium, salts, silver, sodium, steel, sugar, sulphur, tin, water, and zinc.

Now, cannot Mr. Watts and his publishers gives us a fifth volume, and avoid spoiling what promises to be the finest scientific work in the language? We cannot conceive any subscriber grumbling at being obliged to take an additional fifth. Such a work as this is issued for use, and increasing its size beyond the limits at first assigned cannot be considered as a breach of faith. Those who subscribe to it, on the contrary, clearly have a right to expect that the latter portion will not be unnecessarily curtailed for the sake of a few shillings. Many excellent encyclopædic works have been spoiled by being brought to a premature close: notably, *Knight's National Cyclopædia* and *Beeton's Dictionary of Arts, Sciences, and Literature.* We, therefore, most earnestly beg of Mr. Watts to consider this really vital point, and endeavour to induce his publishers to issue a fifth volume.

To go on with our review, however. Parts XXVI. and XXVII. are quite on a par with their predecessors. Under Naphthalene we have a complete history of the legion of compounds having their origin in this curious body, and an account of the labours of himself and others in investigating their properties from C. Greville Williams. Napthylamine is an interesting article from the same talented pen. Nickel, Niobum, and Nitrogen, and their compounds, are fully described by the Editor. The two gems of Part XXVII. are Nomenclature and Notation from Mr. G. C. Foster, whose other articles on physico-chemistry we have had so often to speak of in terms of unqualified praise. In Dr. Odling and Mr. Foster we have two writers of whose acute powers of reasoning and logical accuracy of thought our scientific literature has every reason to be proud. They have both already left their marks on the progress of chemistry, and will, if we mistake not, do much to place this country in the foremost rank, with regard to theoretical chemistry.

To our professional readers Naphtha, Narcotine, and Nitric Acid, will afford a vast fund of information on these important substances. Nutrition is admirably treated by Dr. M. Foster, who has brought the article down to the very latest date, by quoting considerably from Dr. Lyon Playfair's lecture "On Food" at the Royal Institution, delivered only a few weeks since. In the article on Fixed Oils will be found a very valuable table, giving the behaviour of various oils under the action of caustic potash and other reagents, which will be of great use to the oil buyer in these days of adulteration.

C. W. Q.

Nitrogen shown to be Carbonic Oxide in an Allotropic State.

By HENRY KILGOUR. London: John Churchill and Sons. Price 2s. 6d. 30 pp.

WE have great pleasure in informing our readers, and the scientific world in general, that Mr. Henry Kilgour has discovered—on paper—that there is no such thing as nitrogen, the gaseous body known until now by that name being nothing more or less than carbonic oxide in an allotropic condition. Mr. Kilgour bases his arguments principally on three facts—1st. That their atomic weights are the same, viz., 14. 2nd. That their combining volume is the same. 3rd. That their specific gravity is the same. Now, we really think that, in bringing forward these facts, Mr. Kilgour has demolished his own argument in the completest possible manner. If we reject fact No. 2 as being a property belonging to too large a number of gaseous bodies to be of the slightest value in the present case, there remain two facts which really prove more conclusively than anything that we could bring forward that nitrogen and carbonic oxide are *not* allotropic forms of each other. Mr. Kilgour's argument consequently stands thus:—

Nitrogen is allotropic carbonic oxide, because the atomic weights of these two bodies are the same. *But* we find that in other allotropic forms of matter, such as carbon and graphon, that the atomic weights *differ.*

Again, Mr. Kilgour says nitrogen is allotropic carbonic oxide, because their specific gravities are nearly the same. But we find that allotropic forms of matter *differ* in their specific gravities.

Some of the rest of Mr. Kilgour's arguments are singular instances of special pleading. "The neutrality of nitrogen must be held to point it out to be a compound body." "Nitrogen takes a *much greater time* to pass through india-rubber than carbonic oxide;" therefore they are the same. "Charcoal absorbs nearly 25 per cent. more carbonic oxide than nitrogen;" therefore they are the same. "Formic ether and acetate of methyl (not ethyl, as Mr. Kilgour has it,) have the same percentage composition, but different properties;" therefore, etc. In fact, nitrogen is carbonic oxide, because it resembles it in several important particulars; and it is also carbonic oxide, because it differs from it in several important particulars. The argument that the difference in certain properties of these bodies,—for instance, the great combustibility of carbonic acid as compared with nitrogen, and the slight difference (it was *sameness* in another part of the argument) in their specific gravity—is caused by carbonic oxide possessing a higher specific heat than nitrogen, is really hardly worth notice, considering how many bodies it would prove to be allotropic conditions of each other.

One grand theory of the author's is very ludicrous—viz., that vegetation is gifted with the property of decomposing nitrogen into carbon and oxygen.

Mr. Kilgour's arguments are many of them very ingenious; but they are the arguments of one who has evidently done but little work with the test-tube, and who has read widely, in order to wrest facts into shapes that will fit in with his preconceived notions.

The pamphlet contains thirty pages, and is published at 2s. 6d., a somewhat heavy price for such a mass of special pleading.

We will make Mr. Kilgour a present of one fact in addition to those he has brought forward. It is well known that "the beaded bubbles winking at the brim" of a glass of champagne consist of carbonic acid. Now, carbonic acid is composed of two atoms of oxygen, united with one of carbon, and has, therefore, according to Mr. Kilgour's theory, the same composition as nitrous oxide or laughing gas; which fully accounts for the exhilarating and laughter-inducing properties of Cliquot and Roederer's pleasant beverage, more especially in the case of the members of the female sex, whose specific warmth is much greater, whose specific gravity is consequently much smaller, and whose chemical energy must be proportionally more active.

When Mr. Kilgour succeeds in transforming nitrogen into carbonic acid, or *vice versâ*, we shall believe in his theory; but until then we must dissent from him, on the ground that there are more arguments against his doctrine than there are in favour of it.

Mr. Kilgour says he cannot experiment upon the subject, not having the means at his command. Why does he not try and grow some mustard and cress in asbestos or silver sand, allowing it only to have access to air that has been passed through lime-water. Such an apparatus would cost but a few pence, and he would soon see whether vegetables possess the power—unknown at present to chemists—of extracting carbon from nitrogen.

A Manual of Diet and Regimen for Physician and Patient.

By HORACE DOBELL, M.D., etc. Third Edition. London: John Churchill and Sons. Price 1s. 6d.

THIS is a very useful little manual, not only for those unfortunate people who come under the denomination of "patients," but also for every one who is desirous of being excluded from that category. The rules for promoting and maintaining vigorous health are most judicious, and are framed in simple language. They are followed by a list of various articles of food, with spaces left for the insertion of "No" or "Yes," by the physician, an expedient which will be found very valuable by the medical attendants of fidgetty people, who are continually asking what they may or may not eat or drink. The table of the amount of alcohol in various vinous and spirituous liquors is very complete, and will be found most useful. Then follow diet tables, showing how the essentials of a normal diet may be secured, whether consisting of fish, flesh, and fowl, or only of oatmeal and milk. Th percentage table, showing the composition of the different articles of food in daily use, is really a most laborious work, and does the compiler great credit. We must, however, dissent most strongly from the practice of introducing into works like the present recommendations to purchase the commonest articles from particular shopkeepers. It is a practice which, we are sorry to say, is becoming very prevalent amongst medical men who write books. No doubt in certain cases it is both admissible and advisable to tell patients where particular inventions may be obtained; but we must dissent from Dr. Dobell in the opinion that Mr. Davies, of Holborn, is the only seller of good huckaback in London, or that Miss Acton's is the only cookery book in the world. These little quiet advertisements are excusable in the productions of five-guinea testimonial-mongers, but should not be allowed to disfigure such an excellent little manual as the present by so eminent a physician as Dr. Dobell.

The Inhalation of Gases and Medicated Vapours in the Treatment of Consumption and other Pulmonary Diseases; with a Paper on Whooping Cough. By W. Abbotts Smith, M.D., etc. London: Robert Hardwicke. Price 1s.

This, a reprint of two articles contributed to the *Medical Mirror*, by Dr. Abbotts Smith, an author who is already favourably known to our readers as the translator and condenser of M. Demarquay's work on Glycerin. The article on inhalation gives the history of this very important subject, showing that it has been practised by the healers of all ages. It gives an excellent account of the experiments of MM. Demarquay and Leconte on the inhalation of pure oxygen as a remedial agent in anæmic disorders, debility, diabetes, syphilis, etc. The use of chlorine and iodine in phthisis is also spoken of, followed by notices of the effects of arsenic, camphor, creosote, fumes of burning nitre, hot steam, etc., when inhaled. Dr. Smith also gives a favourable account of the inhalation of solid substances, which are mixed with water and blown into fine spray by an instrument similar in construction to Rimmel's Scent Vaporiser. In this way may be exhibited with the greatest success such heavy solids as nitrate of silver, sulphate of zinc, hydrochlorate of morphia, etc. The article concludes by an account of the inhalation of compressed air as a remedy in pulmonary complaints; but Dr. Smith is sceptical as to the benefits derived from this mode of treatment. We should have been glad to have heard the author's opinion on the inhalation of carbolic acid mixed with aqueous vapour as a remedy for phthisis, lately introduced (we believe) by Dr. W. H. Walshe, or, at any rate, frequently prescribed by him with great benefit.

The paper on whooping cough gives an account of the treatment of that distressing malady by bromide of ammonium or potassium, which seems to act most magically in relieving the spasmodic "whoop" characterising the disease. Although the author does not believe in specifics, he gives these salts a very high place as curative agents. He does not seem to think that there is much difference in the effects of the potassium or ammonium salt, judging rightly that it is the halogen and not the metal that works the cure. He concludes by mentioning the value of inhalation in this disease, the remedies from which the greatest benefit was obtained being steam, either alone or medicated with some sedative, or alum, chloride of sodium, the bromides, etc., administered in fine spray. Dr. Abbotts Smith says nothing concerning the "gasworks" treatment of whooping cough; we have known several instances of wonderful cures being effected by this inexplicable remedy.

The Book of Prescriptions; containing more than 3,000 Prescriptions, collected from the practice of the most eminent Physicians and Surgeons, English and Foreign, etc. By Henry Beasley. Third Edition. London: John Churchill and Sons.

Little more need be said in noticing the appearance of a third edition of this well-known work than that it preserves all its old excellences, and contains, in addition, a number of new prescriptions and descriptions of medicines lately introduced into practice. We notice, however, the omission of several matters that we think should have received Mr. Beasley's attention. On a cursory examination, we fail to find any notice of carbolic acid, Saracenia purpurea, the use of bromide of ammonium in whooping cough, atropine, and one or two other subjects of the same sort. The index, too, is faulty. Amyl is recommended in the index (we presume the hydride of amyl, the so-called kerosolene, is meant) as an anæsthetic, but fails to appear in the body of the work. Small-pox, too, is omitted altogether under either its English or Latin appellation. The arrangement of several articles, too, is singular. Thus, although professedly alphabetical, we find Potash, Acetate of, coming after the Carbonate and Tartrate of the same base. The bichromate and permanganate of the same alkali follow the sulphate. In fact, on first glancing at the book, we thought that Mr. Beasley had left out both chlorate and permanganate of potash, simply through their not being in the proper place. A book for hasty reference, such as this is meant to be, should not contain such confusing errors as those we have mentioned. It is really a pity to see such blots on what is otherwise an excellent little carriage and counter companion for physicians and dispensers.

A Suggestion as to Feeding Milch Cows, with a View to an Improvement in the Constituents of the Milk. By "Humanitas." Reprinted from the *Veterinarian.*

This is a well-intentioned paper by a lady who has paid great attention to the subject of substitutes for mother's milk. We fear, however, that the notion would hardly work, seeing the immense difference in the constituents of woman's and cow's milk in different individuals. "Humanitas" says that cow's milk is deficient in sugar, and contains an excess of butter and casein. To render it fit for infants, she proposes to add water to it, and to feed the animals on beetroot, carrots, and other saccharine diet; also on ground corn, to render the milk alkaline. Cows already take an immense quantity of alkali in their food; but their milk is too often acid. Whether the production of acid milk is a vaccine idiosyncracy or not we cannot say; but we should imagine that it proceeded from defective ventilation, want of exercise, or some other extraneous cause.

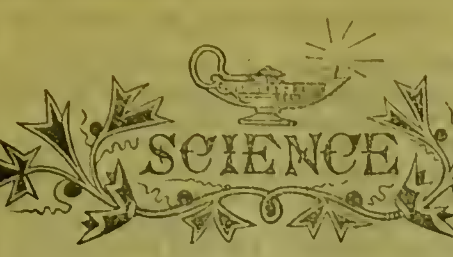
We would refer "Humanitas" to the article "Milk," in *Watt's Dictionary of Chemistry*, now publishing, Vol. III., p. 1014, where she will see that the analytical results obtained by chemists are most discordant. For instance, Chevalier and Henry say that cow's milk contains less fat than human milk; while Vernois and Becquerel state just the contrary. The statements with respect to sugar seem just as untrustworthy. We fear the value of the application of chemistry to baby feeding must be regarded as extremely doubtful. The same writer suggests the employment of wheat flour in place of carbonate of potash in Liebig's food; but we fancy the amount of alkaline constituents contained in it would hardly be sufficient for the purpose. We regard flour, whether boiled or baked, as an extremely dangerous substance to mix with baby's food, as being liable to produce indigestion. *Good* bread, well boiled and squeezed through a fine hair sieve, seems to be much more easily digestible. Possibly, the reason of this may be mechanical rather than chemical. "Humanitas" seems puzzled to know why boiled milk is indigestible. Is it not because the albumen it contains is coagulated by the heat?

Such papers as the above will do much good in ventilating the very important subject of substitutes for human milk, a matter of which mothers know very little and doctors still less. In the point of artificial food babies are really little puzzles, only to be solved by the intelligent application of general principles to particular instances, assisted by that still greater puzzle—mother's instinct.

A Compendium of Domestic Medicine, etc. By John Savory. London: John Churchill and Sons. Seventh Edition. Price 5s.

The rapid sale of the sixth edition of this excellent work, which we took occasion to notice favourably some time since, has caused Mr. Savory to bring out a seventh edition. As a practical guide for unprofessional persons we know of none better, and renew the cordial recommendation we have already given to it. The information contained in it is brought down to the very latest moment.

Added to it is a reprint of an excellent paper by Mr. Savory on Cod Liver Oil, which appeared in the sixth edition of the book.



BENZOL IN CANADIAN PETROLEUM.

In a note to a long and interesting paper on certain hydrocarbons obtained from petroleum, read before the Royal Society, on April 6th, by Mr. C. Schorlemmer, of Owen's College, Manchester, it is stated by that gentleman that he has found "a not inconsiderable quantity of hydrocarbons of the benzol series in Canadian petroleum." He first found traces of these compounds in some petroleum oils upon which he was experimenting, and which he supposed to be American. Pelouze and Cahours, however, state positively that the American petroleum used by them did not contain hydrocarbons of the benzol family. Knowing, therefore, the marvellous accuracy with which all experiments have been carried out by these famous chemists, Mr. Schorlemmer thought it not impossible that there had been some accidental or intentional mixture. He accordingly endeavoured to procure an authentic specimen of crude Pennsylvanian petroleum, but unsuccessfully, as none had come into the Liverpool market for several months. He, however, succeeded in getting some real Canadian rock-oil, in the shape of thick black liquid, having a very unpleasant odour. He distilled it, and treated the portion, boiling below 302° F. (150° C.) with concentrated nitric acid, which acted upon it with great violence. The acid liquid was then diluted with water, and heavy nitro-compounds separated, possessing the characteristic odour of bitter almonds, belonging to nitro-benzol and its congeners. These were treated with tin and hydrochloric acid, and the solution obtained distilled with caustic potash. The aqueous distillate, in which drops of an oily fluid, possessing several of the properties of aniline, were found, gave, with a solution of hypochlorite of lime, the most distinct violet colour, showing, without question, that aniline was present. The test was further confirmed by the addition of a few grains of bichloride of mercury, which formed rosaniline crimson. There can be no doubt, therefore, that Canadian petroleum contains the series of benzol compounds, which, as our readers know, form the starting-point of the aniline dyes. The importance of this discovery depends, in a great measure, upon the amount of benzol compounds to be obtained from Canadian petroleum; and we could have wished that Mr. Schorlemmer had given us a more definite idea of the amount of these bodies contained in the crude oil than "a not inconsiderable quantity." When will chemists give up the use of such terms as "a little," "a small amount," etc. etc.? Whether the American oil will yield these bodies remains to be proved, and we should advise those of our readers who possess authentic specimens of American oil—and there must be many such—to try the very simple series of experiments necessary to prove the presence or absence of these important hydrocarbons.

ALLOYS.

"Every thoughtful metal worker, who has his hands too full of his daily employment to spend much time in experimenting on the properties of the metals he uses, must have often wondered how it has come to pass that, with all our boasted knowledge of chemical and metallurgical subjects, we have as yet only succeeded in inventing some half-dozen useful alloys. Brass, pewter, gun-metal, German silver, and type-metal are really all the alloys that we can name as entering into the manufacture of the more common articles of trade in this country. The causes of this apathy in experimenting on the properties of mixed metals are manifold. The practical metal worker of the present day is generally ignorant of the chemistry of the metals he uses; and even if he were well informed, he would be too busy fighting the great battle of competition to set himself the extra task of experimenting upon alloys. But metal workers will turn round very naturally and ask how it is that practical chemists, whose business is to make experiments, do not investigate the capabilities of metallic mixtures more frequently than is at present the case. We fear very much that the only answer to be given to this is, that scientific chemists of all countries have, almost without exception, been bitten with a mania for nearly exclusively pursuing their researches and expending their talents upon organic compounds. This department of scientific chemistry is so vast and so fruitful in results that it is quite a rarity to see an article in a scientific journal upon a metal or metallic compounds. Even those chemists who have not wholly given up the study of inorganic compounds seem to apply themselves to analytical observations or to the investigation of the rarer metals. As an example of the want of knowledge of the capabilities of alloys, we may instance the discovery lately made by M. Pelouze, of the French mint, that the best metal with which to alloy silver is zinc, and not copper, as we have always believed. Now, considering that silver has been known from the remotest ages, and zinc, at any rate, since the birth of modern chemistry, it seems singularly strange that no one ever thought of trying the effects of these two metals on one another until now. To take the case of iron, a merely cursory examination of the second volume of Percy's 'Metallurgy' will show that some of the very simplest questions relating to this most common and important metal remain as yet unanswered. Such an apparently vital matter as the formation of steel is a bone of contention at nearly every meeting of the French Academy of Sciences, one party persisting in declaring that no steel can be made without the intervention of both nitrogen and carbon, whilst the other side as manfully contend that nitrogen has nothing to do with cementation, carbon being the only element concerned in the process. This example shows that not only does the action of one metal upon another in a state of combination require patient study, but also the effect of the addition of varying proportions of the metalloids, such as carbon, phosphorus, silicon, sulphur, &c., to different metals, remains still to be discovered."—*From the "Ironmonger."*

"The Medical Circular" on the Chemist and Druggists' Bill.—The House of Commons' has made a complete *fiasco* of the Chemists and Druggists' Bill in the Select Committee, which has so entirely shorn it of every distinguishing feature, either for good or evil, that it affords neither subject of congratulation to its supporters, nor of alarm to its opponents. In fact, as it at present stands, it is in such a mutilated form, that we can hardly recognise it, and we are sure that neither Sir Fitzroy Kelly nor Sir John Shelley can discern in the diminutive bantling either of the original measures for which they respectively stood sponsors. The resolutions at which the Select Committee have arrived are as follows:—"1. That no compulsory examination or registration under the Bills referred to the Committee should be required of persons now carrying on the trade of chemists and druggists. 2. That the Bills do provide that no other person shall, after a day to be fixed by the Bill, sell certain drugs to be scheduled in the Bill unless he be examined and registered. 3. That the Committee do proceed in this week (June 1) with Chemists and Druggists' No. 2 Bill." Thus the provisions of the Bill are dwindled down to the smallest possible dimensions, and while all existing chemists and druggists are allowed to pursue their calling exactly as heretofore, without the necessity of any examination or registration, it is to be proposed that no persons after a fixed date shall be allowed to sell certain drugs to be scheduled in the Bill, unless they are examined and registered. *Parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus!* As either of the Bills proposed by Sir Fitzroy Kelly and Sir John Shelley would have acted in a manner more or less injurious to the medical profession, we are by no means sorry at the fate which has attended both of them; and the measure as it now stands will chiefly affect the sellers of paint, of metals, and of strong acids, and other substances used in the arts, and will only in a very remote degree interest the profession of medicine, or even the practice of pharmacy.—*Med. Circular*, June 7.

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

LONDON, JUNE 15, 1865.

Correspondence.—All communications should be addressed to the Editor, at 24, Bow-lane, E.C.; those intended for publication should be accompanied by the real names and addresses of the writers.

Queries.—The Editor cannot undertake to attend to those which are anonymous, or to send answers through the post.

Subscription.—The subscription to the Chemist and Druggist is 5s. per annum, payable in advance. Should a receipt be required, a stamped envelope must be sent with the amount of subscription. A specimen number may be had upon application, price 6d.

Post Office Orders.—Post-Office Orders to be made payable at the General Post Office to the Publisher, James Firth, who is alone authorized to receive accounts.

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The Chemist and Druggist is published on the Fifteenth of every month, and regularly supplied direct to the Members of the Trade in Great Britain, Ireland, the Colonies, and all the principal seats of foreign commerce.

Everything intended for insertion in the current Month, must be sent in before the 10th, except Employers' and Assistants' Advertisements which will be received until 9 a.m. on the morning previous to publication.

THE CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS' BILLS.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to consider the two Chemists and Druggists' Bills exists no longer. The result of its deliberations is not very imposing; but we cannot regard it as unimportant. The chemists and druggists of Great Britain have still to wait for a good Act of Parliament, but they may rejoice at having escaped a bad one. The leaders of the Pharmaceutical Society have at last discovered something very like power in the United Society, and have learnt that a Bill for exalting their own body at the expense of the larger section of the trade has little chance of passing the Legislature.

The Chairman of the Select Committee will recommend the Government to introduce a new Bill next Session, based upon certain resolutions adopted by the Committee.

In the present number we print a report of the proceedings of the Committee, and also an interesting account of the Parliamentary struggle received from the Secretary of the United Society.

DOCTORS *v.* CHEMISTS.

The following petition against the practice of medicine by chemists and druggists has been laid before the House of Commons:—

To the Honourable Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association

Sheweth—That two Bills entitled "Bills to regulate the qualifications of chemists and druggists," are now depending in your honourable House.

That chemists and druggists are neither qualified by law, onr competent by education, to practise medicine.

That injury to health, and not unfrequently loss of life, result from chemists undertaking the duties of medical practitioners.

That the sale of patent, quack, and other secret medicines, has an injurious influence on the health of the community, more especially on the infantile portion of it.

That the traffic in secret remedies, which is repudiated by the qualified practitioner, enables the unqualified pretender, and the uneducated quack, to victimize Her Majesty's subjects to an incredible extent, as well in person as in purse.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that in the said Bill adequate provision may be made—

1st. For preventing the registered chemists and druggists from practising medicine and surgery.

2nd. For preventing the sale of any patent, quack, or other medicine, unless a sworn certificate of its composition be lodged with the registrar appointed under the Bill, or be otherwise made accessible to the public.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

(Signed on behalf of the Branch Association)

Charles F. J. Lord, President.
A. P. Stewart, M.D. } Hon. Secs.
Alexander Henry, M.D. } Hon. Secs.
Septimus Gibbon, A.B. and M.B. } Hon. Secs.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

In our next number Mr. Harry Napier Draper, F.C.S., will commence a series of articles upon the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Products in the Dublin International Exhibition.

A REVIEW OF THE

BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA.

BY J. C. BRAITHWAITE AND J. C. BROUGH.

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS PREPARATIONS AND SUBSTANCES NOT ALREADY NOTICED.

ACIDS.

Acetum.—*Vinegar.* "Impure dilute Acetic Acid, prepared from French Wines by the Acetous fermentation," is substituted in the Ph. B. for that prepared by fermentation from an infusion of Malt, and known in the Materia Medica of the English and Scotch pharmacopœias as "British Vinegar." The L. College allowed one-thousandth part of Sulphuric Acid to be added, for the purpose of preventing the growth of the vinegar plant, technically known as "mothering." The E. College recognised no such addition. We conclude this French variety has been introduced in deference to the wishes of the Irish College, as we find only French Vinegar officinal in their pharmacopœia. It likewise finds a place in that of the Scotch College. Mr. Squire remarks * that "Orleans Vinegar may be had at the Italian warehouses; it, however, constantly deposits by keeping, and seems to possess no advantage over our own Vinegar, which keeps much better, probably on account of the one-thousandth part of Sulphuric Acid which is allowed by law to be added." It is about one-sixth stronger than the British Vinegar. Vinegar is the most ready and safe antidote in cases of poisoning by Alkalies. Dose, 1 to 3 drachms, diluted.

Acidum Aceticum.—*Acetic Acid.* Acetic Acid of no less than ten different degrees of strength was ordered in former pharmacopœias: the reduction, therefore, to three only in the Ph. B. is a step in the right direction; and there are many who advocate a futher reduction to two only—Acid Aceticum and Acidum Aceticum Dilutum. The strength of this acid has been reduced so as to correspond with that of the Ph. D. The acid of the Ph. L. had a sp. gr. of 1·048, and contained 30·8 per cent. of anhydrous acid, whilst that of the British is only 1·044, and contains but 28 per cent. It is eight times the strength of the Diluted Acid, and is only employed in the preparation of other medicines.

Acidum Aceticum Dilutum.—*Diluted Acetic Acid.* This is also altered so as to agree with the formula of the D. College. It contains one part of commercial Acetic Acid in every eight parts, or 3·5 per cent. of the dry acid, and is slightly weaker than that of the Ph. L. Dose, 1 to 3 drachms, with Water.

Acidum Aceticum Glaciale.—*Glacial Acetic Acid.* Both the E. and D. Colleges gave formulæ for the preparation of this compound, the E. under the title of "Acidum Aceticum," and the D. as "Acidum Aceticum Glaciale." A writer in the *Lancet* [*] considers that "of the different modes of preparing this acid, the Pharmacopœia chooses decidedly the best; it is, in fact, that which is adopted by manufacturers on the large scale." The process of the Dublin Pharmacopœia, with Hydrochloric Acid and Acetate of Lead, though producing an acid of great purity, was costly, troublesome, and utterly impracticable for large quantities. He, however, subsequently remarks: "the Pharmacopœia states that the product is Monohydrated Acetic Acid, and that the specific gravity is 1·065, but it will contain about 2 per cent. of Water, as the sp. gr. of the pure Monohydrated Acid is 1·058. Other writers entertain very different opinions on this point, for in the *Medical Circular* [†] we read, "The means adopted by the manufacturer for obtaining this article are not generally known. Scarcely any of it is made in this country, but nearly the whole is imported from France and Germany. We engage to say that if this process be repeated twenty times, the products will entirely fail in nineteen out of twenty operations to comply with the description in the Materia Medica. It is *rarely* and with extreme difficulty that *any* Glacial Acetic Acid can be so obtained; and that the whole product should crystallize by cooling to near 32° is practically impossible:" and further, "Strong Sulphuric is capable of acting upon Acetic Acid itself, forming among other things Sulphurous Acid and Water. This action always occurs to a greater or less extent; and it is owing to the two last-named products passing over with the distillate that the vitiation of the result is principally due. The process given in the Dublin Pharmacopœia was a very good one, and capable of yielding a satisfactory result; the principal difficulty being in drying the Acetate of Lead. By substituting Acetate of Lime this obstacle may be entirely removed, and the process is then perfectly easy and manageable." The writer also adds, "We think it will be found to be rather difficult to remove the Sulphurous Acid by Binoxide of Manganese and agitation, as directed." We have made the Glacial Acid *repeatedly* by the process of the Dublin Pharmacopœia, and have always obtained a good product, which congealed between 50° and 60°, and can see no difficulty in obtaining it by this process, or the modification of it mentioned, in sufficient quantity for all medical purposes. It is stated, as we have seen above, that it is not made in this country, but imported from the Continent, and it is believed that its principal source is the Binacetate of Potash. The Ph. B. describes it as Monohydrated Acetic Acid, and states that it is "converted, when cooled to nearly 32°, into colourless prismatic crystals." Our author above quoted remarks respecting this: "The test of congealing at 32° is not a severe one, for, when absolutely a monohydrate, it will solidify between 50° and 60°." With the exception of its being a component of Mistura Creasoti (where it is of no use, as the Creasote dissolves freely without it) it has only been introduced into the Pharmacopœia as an external agent; and there are many who think that it owes its position there to the result of a compromise between the Colleges, and that it might, as before stated, been readily dispensed with. It is more than three times stronger than Acidum Aceticum, and twenty-four times stronger than Acidum Aceticum Dilutum.

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* Companion to the Pharmacopœia, 2nd Edit.

Acidum Benzoicum.—*Benzoic Acid.* This Acid found a place in the Materia Medica of the Ph. L., where it was defined as "an acid prepared from Benzoin by sublimation." No process, however, was given for its manufacture. In the Ph. B. the process of the D. College has been introduced, which consists in submitting the Benzoin to sublimation. A very small quantity of the acid, however, is obtainable by this process; and we believe that the manufacturers generally adopt a combination of the wet and dry methods, viz., by boiling the powdered Benzoin with quicklime, and precipitating the concentrated filtrate with Hydrochloric Acid, pressing, drying, and resubliming. This process yields more than double the product of that of the Ph. L. It is stimulant and expectorant, and is said to cure nocturnal incontinence of urine. "Dose, 5 to 15 grains, in a large quantity of Water, or in pills made with Glycerin; 5 grains of Acid and 1 minim of Glycerin make a good pill." [‡]

Acidum Boracicum.—*Boracic Acid.* This compound finds a place in Appendix B of the Ph. B., under the list of "Articles employed in Chemical Analysis." It found no place in former Pharmacopœias.

Acidum Citricum.—*Citric Acid.* This acid was included in the Mat. Med. of the L. and D. Pharmacopœias, but no formulæ for its preparation were given in either. The present process of the Ph. B. is an improvement upon that of the E. College, as it is now directed to be subjected to fermentation previously to saturation with Chalk; and by this means the mucilaginous substances contained in the juice are got rid of. Care must, however, be taken that the process of fermentation has been quite completed before adding the Carbonate of Lime. One part of Acid dissolved in fourteen parts of Water is a substitute for lemon juice. Dose, 10 to 30 grains.

Acidum Gallicum.—*Gallic Acid* was included in the Materia Medica of the L. and E. Pharmacopœias, but no process was given for its preparation. The Ph. D., however, gave two modes for preparing it, the better of which has been adopted in the Ph. B. In this process the Tannic Acid existing in the gall-nuts is converted by oxidation into Gallic Acid. It is astringent, and is given in all cases where the bleeding vessels must be reached through the circulation. It is considered by some to be more effective than Tannic Acid. It is also given in pyrosis and the night sweats of phthisis. "Dose, 3 to 5 grains three times a day, dissolved in warm Water, or suspended in mixture by mucilage; 10 to 60 grains every five hours in Albumenuria, when the urine is of low specific gravity. It is also given in pills; 30 grains of acid and 4 minims of Glycerin will make six pills." [*]

Acidum Oxalicum.—*Oxalic Acid.* Under "Articles employed in Chemical Analysis," in Appendix B, a formula is included for the Purification of Oxalic Acid of Commerce; and the Purified Acid so obtained is employed in making the "Volumetric Solution of Oxalic Acid." One hundred measures of this Volumetric Solution contain 63 grains, or an equivalent of Oxalic Acid.

Acidum Tannicum.—*Tannic Acid.* This compound was included in the Materia Medica of the L. College, but found no place in the E. The D. College gave a form for its preparation, which was that suggested by Pelouze; and this has been transferred to the Ph. B. It consists in percolating coarsely-powdered Galls with Ether containing a little Water. According to the statement of a writer in the *Chemical News*, [†] the process generally adopted in the preparation of this Acid is the following:—"Finely-powdered Gall-nuts are made into a stiff paste with Ether and Water. One pound of Galls requires twenty ounces of Ether and four ounces of Water. This paste is placed in a canvas bag, and is then submitted to pressure. A thick solution of Tannic Acid is thus squeezed out, which only requires careful drying." According to Mr. Squire, "100 parts of Galls yield [‡] 33 parts of Tannic Acid." It is styptic and astringent, and is useful in uterine hæmorrhage, dysentery, and diarrhœa. Dose, 3 to 15 grains, prescribed in Water; it may be combined with the protosalts (but not with the persalts) of Iron, with Potash, Soda, and Ammonia: 1 minim of Glycerin with 4 grains makes a nice pill. Externally, as a styptic, dissolved in Glycerin; as a wash, 5 grains to 1 ounce of Water; in Ointments, 40 grains to 1 ounce: 60 grains to 1 ounce of Chalk makes an astringent dentifrice. For an injection, 5 grains to 1 ounce of Water.

Acidum Tartaricum.—*Tartaric Acid.* In the Pharmacopœias of the L. and D. Colleges this compound was included in the Materia Medica, but no processes were given for its preparation. The Scotch College gave a formula for preparing it, which has been improved upon in the Ph. B. We fancy, however, few persons will be tempted to make it for themselves; and the process of the Ph. B. is not likely to be employed by manufacturers of this substance.

Omissions.—Acetum Britannicum, L., E.; Acetum Cantharidis, L., E., D.; Acetum Colchici, L., E., D.; Acetum Destillatum, L., E.; Acetum Opii, E., D.; Acetum Scillæ, L., E., D.; Acidum Aceticum, sp. gr. 1·048, L.; Acidum Aceticum Forte, sp. gr. 1·066, D.; Acidum Aceticum Camphoratum, E., D.; Acidum Pyroligneum, sp. gr. 1·034, E.

ALKALOIDS.

The Scotch and Irish Colleges gave formulæ for the preparation of the principal Alkaloids; but the English merely enumerated them in the Materia Medica of their Pharmacopœia, appending certain tests by which their purity might be recognised. The precedent of the E. and D. Colleges has been followed by the compilers of the Ph. B., and processes have been introduced for the preparation of these bodies, though with what utility is somewhat doubtful, as it is not at all likely that those who use the Pharmacopœia will manufacture their own Alkaloids, while they can obtain them of good quality at a moderate price from the wholesale houses.

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[*] January 23rd, 1864.
[†] March 24, 1864.
[‡] Squire's Companion to Pharm.

[*] Comp. to the Pharm., 2nd Ed.
[†] Feb. 27, 1864.
[‡] Comp. to Pharm., 2nd Edit.

Aconitia.—*Aconitia.* A short notice of this alkaloid will be found in a former article.

Atropia.—*Atropia.* This alkaloid was included in the list of the Materia Medica of the L. College, but found no place in that of the E. or D. In the Ph. B. a process has been introduced for its preparation, which is said to be a good one; but few, we expect, will be found to prepare their own Atropia. It is employed for external use only. An Ointment made with it constitutes a much cleaner preparation than Unguentum Belladonnæ.

Liquor Atropiæ.—*Solution of Atropia.* This is a new preparation, each drachm of which contains half a grain of the alkaloid, or one part in every one hundred and twenty parts. Mr. Squire * says that, when containing "this quantity of Spirit," it "causes pain when applied to the eyes; but a smaller quantity hardly holds the Atropia in solution. The Sulphate dissolves without the aid of Spirit, and required only one half the quantity of Spirit to keep the Liquor from change."

Beberiæ Sulphas.—*Sulphate of Beberia.* This preparation has already been noticed in a former number.

Digitalinum.—*Digitalin.* This preparation has also been previously noticed.

Morphiæ Hydrochloras.—*Hydrochlorate of Morphia.* No process was given in the Ph. L. for the preparation of this compound; it was simply enumerated in the list of Materia Medica, tests being given for its purity. Both the E. and D. Colleges inserted formulæ for its preparation, and a process was also given in the Ph. L. 1836. The process adopted by the compilers of the Ph. B. is that commonly known as "Gregory's process," which answers admirably, we believe, on the large scale, but is unadapted for making small quantities, owing to the great waste incurred. The following process of Dr. Mohr's is said to be far more economical on the small scale:—"Twenty parts of Opium are boiled for half an hour with sixty parts of Water; and this operation is repeated three times. The solution thus obtained is evaporated to one half, and poured into a mixture of forty parts of Water and five parts of Hydrate of Lime. The whole is then boiled for a quarter of an hour, filtered, and pressed. The filtrate is now to be evaporated to forty parts, filtered, and mixed with a hot solution of two parts of Sal Ammoniac. Under these circumstances the whole of the Morphia gradually separates in crystals, which are very pure, and contain but little colouring matter. They should be collected, washed with cold Water, and dissolved in Diluted Hydrochloric Acid, decolorized with a little pure Animal Charcoal, and crystallized." The Ph. B. directs the crystals to be dried upon filtering paper, but this is an exceedingly wasteful method; and as there is no advantage in having the salt in crystals, the mass is generally pressed in a cloth to separate it from the mother liquor, and then the dried, pressed cake is rubbed to powder.

Liquor Morphiæ Hydrochloratis.—*Solution of Hydrochlorate of Morphia.* This preparation is of the same strength as that of the E. and D. Colleges, namely, four grains to the ounce, whilst that of the L. Ph. contained eight grains to the ounce. Each fluid drachm contains half a grain. Dose, 15 to 30 minims.

Quiniæ Sulphas.—*Sulphate of Quinia.* In this case again a formula appeared in the Ph. L. 1836, which was discarded in 1851, and the article simply enumerated in the Materia Medica as Quiniæ Disulphas, tests for ascertaining its purity being appended. Both the E. and D. Colleges gave processes, but they all differed from that of the Ph. B. This preparation is another that can only be made with profit on a large scale.

Santoninum.—*Santonine.* A short notice of this principle has already appeared in a former number.

Strychnia.—*Strychnia.* This was also simply enumerated, with the tests for its purity, in the Materia Medica of the Ph. L. 1851. In that of 1836, as also in the Pharmacopœia of the E. and D. Colleges, formulæ appear for its preparation; the process of the Ph. B. differs, however, from either of them. Dose, $\frac{1}{12}$th of a grain, gradually and slowly increasing. It should be divided by trituration with Sugar of Milk before making into pills.

Liquor Strychniæ.—*Solution of Strychnia.* This is a new addition to the Ph. B. It is made by dissolving the Strychnia in Diluted Hydrochloric Acid, and then making up to the proper quantity by the addition of Water and Spirit. Two drachms of the solution contain one grain of Strychnia. Dose, 10 minims, which is equal to $\frac{1}{12}$th of a grain of Strychnia.

Veratria.—*Veratria.* This alkaloid, like the above, was enumerated in the list of Materia Medica of the Ph. L. 1851, with the appropriate tests appended. That of 1836, as well as that of the E. College, gave a process for its production. The D. College entirely discards it. The formula of the E. College has been adopted by the compilers of the Ph. B. It is said to yield a very good result; but, as in the other cases, can only be prepared at a loss on the small scale. It is a powerful emetic and drastic purgative, and is rarely given internally. It is employed externally in neuralgia, in chronic swellings, stiffening, or induration of the joints, and should be very cautiously used where the skin is broken.

Omissions.—Atropiæ Sulphas, L.; Morphia, D.; Morphiæ Acetas, L., E., D.; Morphiæ Acetatis Liquor, L., D.; Quinæ Murias, D.; Quinæ Valerianas, D.; Strychniæ Murias, D.

ETHER AND OTHER COMPOUNDS.

Æther.—*Ether.* The Ph. L. 1836 contained a formula for the preparation of this compound, under the name of Sulphuric Ether; but that of 1851 omitted that formula, and retained the title "Æther," only placing the article in the list of Materia Medica, with tests for ascertaining its quality appended. Both the E. and D. Colleges gave a formula for its preparation, under the old name of "Æther Sulphuricus," and that of the E. College has been selected as the process of the Ph. B. The Ether so prepared is defined as Oxide of Ethyl, with about eight per cent. by volume of Alcohol, and is stated to conform to the following test:—"Sp. gr. ·735. Fifty measures, agitated with an equal volume of Distilled Water, are reduced to forty-one by an absorption of eighteen per cent." This Mr. Squire* states to be "an error," as he found "that only twelve, instead of eighteen per cent., are absorbed of Æther, sp. gr. ·735." He also describes it as "a powerful diffusible stimulant, expectorant, anti-spasmodic, and narcotic. Used to expel flatus from the stomach, and to allay pain and cramp in that organ. In nausea it is given as a cordial. It is frequently used for inhalation, and is still preferred by some to Chloroform as an anæsthetic." He also mentions that he devised the first apparatus for the inhalation of Ether, which he has presented to the Museum of University College. Mr. Liston performed the first capital operation in this country with this apparatus, the patient not suffering the least pain, nor indeed, after the return of consciousness, would he be persuaded that his leg was off until he felt for it. Dose 20 to 40 minims.

Ether (Pure). Under this title a formula is given in the Appendix A., for separating the Alcohol and Water from the Ether above described by means of recently burned Lime and Chloride of Calcium. The sp. gr. is stated not to exceed ·720.

Chloroformum. — *Chloroform.* Both the L. and D. Colleges gave a process in their Pharmacopœias for the preparation of this compound, the latter of which, somewhat modified, has been retained in the Ph. B. It was not included in that of the E. College. The Ph. B. directs it to be purified by agitating the washed Chloroform for *five minutes* in a bottle with an equal volume of Sulphuric Acid. The reason for this is that Dr. Christison has pointed out that if the Chloroform be left in contact with ordinary Sulphuric Acid, which generally contains traces of Nitrous Acid, it will undergo decomposition in less than twenty-four hours, and rapidly evolve Chlorine; and even pure Sulphuric Acid causes a similar change to ensue, if the contact be much prolonged. The object of re-distilling with the Slaked Lime is to neutralize any trace of Acid that *may remain* in contact with the Chloroform. The non-evolution of a gas, when Potassium is dropped into it, shows the absence of Alcohol, as Potassium has no effect on pure Chloroform. Dose, 1 to 5 minims, with yolk of egg and mucilage, in syrup, or in a teaspoonful of brandy.

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* Companion to Pharm., 2nd Ed.

* Companion to the Pharmacopœia, 2nd Edition.

Collodium.—*Collodion.* This article found no place in the Pharmacopœia of either of the three English Colleges, but a formula for its preparation has been introduced into the Ph. B.; the Pyroxylin employed is, however, of too good a quality for making Collodion, as it refuses to dissolve in the Ether and Spirit. It is chiefly used for coating diseased or wounded parts with a protecting film. Applied to erysipelas, when caused by external injury, such as wounds, etc., Mr. Squire states, that "a very pliable Collodion may be made of three hundred parts of Collodion, twelve of Venice Turpentine, and six of Castor Oil." Collodion is applied to burns, ulcers, and abrasions of the skin.

Glycerinum.—*Glycerin.* The Pharmacopœia of the D. College included this compound, sp. gr. 1·260, but it was not found in that of either of the other Colleges. The Glycerin of the Ph. B. has the same sp. gr. as that of the D. College. Mr. Squire, however, remarks that the sp. gr. of "the best Glycerin of Commerce is 1·250, and answers all practical purposes; and it is generally diluted for use. It may be obtained of a sp. gr. of 1·270, and even of 1·280, though with great difficulty; this concentrated strength is never required for medicine." He further remarks that "it possesses great powers as a solvent, and is an excellent excipient for many medicinal substances. It dissolves its own weight of Borax; it also dissolves Bromine and Iodine, the Iodide of Sulphur, the Chlorides of Potassium and Sodium, the fixed alkalies, some of the alkaline earths, and a large number of neutral salts. It also dissolves the vegetable acids, and either suspends or dissolves the vegetable alkaloids. Many solutions are made with it for medicinal purposes, as of the Salts of Morphia, Quinia, Strychnia, Veratria, Atropia, Tannic and Gallic Acids, and Arsenic. It is also antiseptic, one part to ten parts of water, preserving animal substances equal to spirit." Glycerin is internally nutritive and emollient, and has been proposed, and frequently given, as a substitute for Cod Liver Oil; but Dr. Garrod,[*] after a great number of comparative trials, has come to the conclusion that "Glycerin possesses none of the therapeutic properties for which Cod Liver Oil is so highly prized,—no power, in fact, of arresting waste in the system." But, he adds, "it may be made use of for sweetening articles of diet when sugar is objectionable,—for example, in diabetes." Mr. Squire remarks:—"As an external remedy it is highly valued, chiefly from its emollient and undrying properties. It is used in skin diseases, where emollient and soothing applications are required, as pityriasis, lepra, herpes, eczema, psoriasis, prurigo, and lichen. Useful as a moist dressing for wounds. Excellent for chilblains. Used in poultices ($\frac{1}{4}$th or $\frac{1}{10}$th), it keeps them soft for a long time. Introduced with cotton, it relieves deafness arising from dryness of the external meatus." Dose, 10 minims to 1 drachm.

Pyroxylin.—*Gun Cotton.* As before stated, the Pyroxylin obtained by the process given in the Ph. B., Appendix A, is useless for the purpose of making Collodion, as the Gun Cotton so produced is of too good a quality. According to the *Lancet*, March 5th, 1864, this error arose from the following cause:—"At the early sittings of the London Committee the specific gravity of the pure Nitric Acid was recommended to be fixed at 1·420, and a formula for making a soluble Pyroxylin based upon this strength of the Nitric Acid was obtained from an eminent manufacturing chemist. But the pure Nitric Acid, according to the last editions of both Edinburgh and Dublin Pharmacopœias, was ordered to have the specific gravity 1·500; and at the Conference of the three Committees it was finally decided that the Acid of the British Pharmacopœia should also have the specific gravity 1·500. The formula for Pyroxylin, however, was accepted as a good one, the change in the Nitric Acid being forgotten." Nor does it seem to have been remembered prior to the issue of the small edition. "The result is, that Pyroxylin made by the directions of the British Pharmacopœia will not dissolve in Ether, and, consequently, no Collodion can be made; but if these directions are observed, substituting an Acid of specific gravity 1·420 for that of the Pharmacopœia, a satisfactory product will be obtained."

ANIMAL PRODUCTIONS.

Adeps Præparatus.—*Prepared Lard.* In the Pharmacopœias of the L. and E. Colleges these substances were merely included in the list of Materia Medica; but the D. gave a formula for its preparation, which consisted in melting the Lard of Commerce (which always contains Salt) in boiling water, allowing to cool, and separating the Lard when it has solidified. The process of the Ph. B. is, in our opinion, a decided improvement upon this, as we are there directed to take the internal Fat of the abdomen of the Hog, *perfectly fresh*; to remove the membranes as much as possible; liquefy over a water bath; strain through fine linen; and again heat on a water bath, stirring continually, until it becomes quite clear. Some pharmaceutists strongly recommend well washing the flare with water before melting it.

Solution of Albumen.—A formula for making this solution is given in the Ph. B., in Appendix B, under "Test Solutions for Qualitative Analysis." It is introduced for the first time into the English Pharmacopœias.

Solution of Gelatine.—This is also included in Appendix B, of the Ph. B., under "Test Solutions for Qualitative Analysis."

Sugar of Milk.—Why this compound has been found worthy of a place in the Materia Medica of the Ph. B. we are at a loss to conceive; for we have been unable to discover any preparation therein contained, into the composition of which it enters, and, as it is devoid of medicinal properties, it is not likely to be prescribed alone. It is, however, an excellent adjunct to milk-and-water as a food for infants, and, according to Mr. Squire, "it is used as a non-nitrogenous article of diet in consumption and other pulmonary diseases, and in cases of extreme irritability of the stomach, following profuse loss of blood." He also mentions that, when "used to mix with the food of children, dissolved in water, and mixed with cow's milk, it forms a good substitute for that of the mother. It is also useful for rubbing up medicinal powders." It was included in the Materia Medica of the D. College, but in neither of the others. Dose, 1 or 2 drachms, or more, in Water.

VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES.

Cotton.—*Cotton Wool.*—This substance is enumerated in Appendix A, under "Articles employed in the Preparation of Medicines." It was included in the Materia Medica of the E. College, but found no place in the L. or D.

Litmus.—Described as "a Blue Pigment, prepared from various species of Rocella."

Blue Litmus Paper.—Directed to be made of unsized paper steeped in Tincture of Litmus, and dried by exposure to the air.

Red Litmus Paper.—Described as unsized paper steeped in Tincture of Litmus, which has been previously reddened by the addition of a very minute quantity of Sulphuric Acid, and dried by exposure to the air.

Litmus Tincture.—A formula for preparing this is given, viz., "Macerating one ounce of Litmus in ten ounces of Proof Spirit for seven days, and filtering." These are all arranged in Appendix B, under "Articles employed in Chemical Analysis."

Myristicæ Adeps.—*Concrete Oil of Nutmeg.* This preparation was enumerated among the articles of the Materia Medica of the E. and D. Colleges, but not in that of the L. It is employed in the preparation of the Emplastrum Picis.

Turmeric.—Described as in the Materia of the E. College, as the rhizome of the Curcuma longa. It was not included in the Pharmacopœias of the L. and D. Colleges, but occurs, enumerated with other bodies, in an Appendix to that of the L.

Turmeric Paper is directed to be made of unsized paper steeped in Tincture of Turmeric, and dried by exposure to the air.

Turmeric Tincture.—By macerating one ounce of Turmeric in six fluid ounces of Proof Spirit for seven days, and straining. These are all included in Appendix B, under "Articles employed in Chemical Analysis."

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[*] *Med. Times and Gazette*, Feb. 27, 186

BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

SUBJECTS FOR PAPERS, 1865-6.

The annual meeting of the members of the British Pharmaceutical Conference will be held at Birmingham, in September this year, at the time of the visit of the British Association to that town. Of the subjects suggested for investigation the following have been accepted, either by the gentlemen who proposed them or by other members, and a paper on each question will be read at the meeting :—

1. Extract of *Fucus vesiculosus* is occasionally prescribed for use in medicine. When made by the action of proof spirit, a green product is obtained; when by water, a red extract results. What is the most eligible form in which to exhibit any medicinal principles that may be present in the plant? Accepted by J. Whitfield.

2. Valerianate of Zinc. Describe an easy method of determining the purity of this salt as found in commerce. Accepted by F. Sutton.

3. Valerianate of Iron. What is the best process for the preparation of this salt? What are its characters, and how may its purity be most readily ascertained? Accepted by F. Sutton.

9. Ergot. What is its active principle, and what the best preparation for its administration? Accepted by R. V. Tuson.

10. On some of the rarer essential oils. By C. Umney.

28. Euphorbine. Professor Tuson will add to some experiments he has already made on this substance, and report the result to the Conference.

33. Pereirine. Dr. C. A. Martius will communicate a paper on this body.

36. Some of the pill-masses of the Pharmacopœia are of inconvenient consistence, or acquire that condition by keeping; can this be obviated? Accepted by E. Wood.

43. On microscopic analysis applied to pharmacy. Continued by H. Deane and H. B. Brady.

44. Distilled waters. Should these be prepared from the raw material, or from the essential oil? Can any be advantageously prepared without distillation? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the addition of spirit to and of the retention of excess of oil in contact with them? Accepted by J. C. Pooley.

45. To what does Senna owe its active properties, and what is the best solvent of the same? Is the Syrup of Senna P. B. a satisfactory preparation? What is the comparative medicinal value of senna leaflets and senna pods? Accepted by J. A. Knights.

47. What is the quantity of Tannin in English Galls (*Cynips quercus-petioli*) at different stages of their growth? Can they at any period be employed economically as a substitute for the Nutgalls of commerce? Accepted by W. Judd.

101. Further researches on Hyoscyamine. Accepted by W. A. Tilden.

102. On the effects of soil and cultivation on the development of the active principles of plants. Accepted by T. T. P. B. Warren.

103. On the electrical resistances of the fixed and volatile oils. Accepted by T. T. P. B. Warren.

105. Emulsions. What are the best methods of forming emulsions from fixed and volatile oils, balsams, spermaceti, camphor, myrrh, ammoniac, guaiacum, etc.? Experimental investigation and compilation of existing knowledge of this subject is undertaken by Mr. Proctor, who will be glad to receive communications pointing out cases of difficulty or offering suggestions.

106. Aconite. Does aconite owe any of its activity to the volatile acrid body said to exist in it? Give a process for the preparation of Aconitine. Accepted by T. B. Groves.

107. Nitrite of Soda. By what modification of the process given in the British Pharmacopœia, or by what other process can this salt be successfully and economically prepared? Accepted by W. D. Howard.

109. Ammonia. What are the source, annual yield, and characteristics of the so-called Volcanic Ammonia? Accepted by W. D. Howard.

112. What is the nature of the precipitate formed in Ipecacuanha Wine; how is it affected by the nature of the wine used? Accepted by G. Johnson.

113. Researches on Calabar Bean. Continued by J. B. Edwards.

114. The Iodo-hydrargyride of Potassium is a test for Methylic Alcohol in presence of Ethylic Alcohol. Is its action in any way interfered with by the presence of organic bodies usually existing in the tinctures of the Pharmacopœia? If so, under what circumstances and precautions can it be applied? Accepted by J. Tuck.

116. Phosphoric Acid. Required,—a correct table of the strength of solutions of phosphoric acid of various densities. Accepted by J. Watts.

117. Liquor Ferri Perchloridi. A critical examination of the method of preparation adopted in the British Pharmacopœia, including suggestions for obtaining it, and the tincture, of definite composition. Accepted by J. Attfield.

118. Chemical research on the Podophyllin of the British Pharmacopœia. Accepted by J. B. Barnes.

119. Report on the processes for the preparation of Glacial Acetic Acid, with suggestions. (See Pharm. Journ. 2nd ser. vol. v. p. 561.) Accepted by W. E. Heathfield.

120. Report on the advantages or disadvantages of the employment, in pharmacy, of Nitric Acid of sp. gr. 1·5. Accepted by J. Spearing.

123. Report on the strength of Emplastrum Cantharidis, P. B., with suggestions. (See Pharm. Journ. 2nd ser. vol. v. p. 567.) Accepted by A. Allchin.

124. Resins of Jalap and Scammony. What are the best excipients to use in forming these resins into pills. (See Pharm. Journ. 2nd ser. vol. v. p. 569.) Accepted by T. J. Hasselby.

126. Cinchona. Can a process for Extractum Cinchonæ Flavæ Liquidum be devised which shall effect the entire exhaustion of the bark of its alkaloids? (See Pharm. Journ. 2nd ser. vol. v. p. 569.) Accepted by C. Umney.

127. Mistura Creasoti. Report on the formula given in the British Pharmacopœia, with suggestions. (See Pharm. Journ. 2nd ser. vol. v. p. 629.) Accepted by J. Tuck.

128. On some of the Tinctures of the British Pharmacopœia. By J. Adams.

129. Report on the medicinal use of Artificial Organic Acids and Bases. Accepted by C. W. Quin.

130. Report on the use of butter of *Theobroma Cacao* in pharmacy. Accepted by H. A. Peele and J. Spearing.

131. On the flavour of Castor Oil. Why is Italian castor oil less unpalatable than other commercial varieties? Accepted by H. Groves.

132. On the processes for estimating Nitrite of Soda. By C. R. C. Tichborne.

Subjects relating to Adulterations, Impurities, and Faults of Manufacture.

A Committee of five gentlemen—Dr. Attfield, of London; Mr. T. B. Groves, of Weymouth; Mr. B. S. Proctor, of Grey-street, Newcastle; Mr. F. M. Rimmington, of Bradford; and Mr. F. Sutton, of Bank Plain, Norwich—has the general charge of these subjects relating to the purity of medicines. Either member of the Committee will be glad to receive directly, or through the General Secretaries, authentic specimens of substances whose examination would tend to throw light on the questions. The analysis of such specimens will be free of cost.

54. Large quantities of cotton-seed oil are expressed in this country, and used for admixture with other oils. What are the properties of cotton-seed oil, and can it be used in pharmacy. Accepted by R. Reynolds.

55. Essential oils, their adulterations by turpentine, and tests of purity. Accepted by H. S. Evans.

58. Report on the strength and purity of diluted and undiluted officinal acids. Accepted by D. H. Jay.

59. Report on the strength and purity of the alkaline solutions (Potash, Ammonia, etc.), met with in pharmacy. Accepted by D. H. Jay.

60. Report on the various James's Powders. Accepted by W. T. Fewtrell.

61. The composition of the bottled Mineral Waters of Commerce. Accepted by H. Matthews.

62. On the Calamine and Oxide of Zinc of Pharmacy. Accepted by R. H. Davis.

63. Report on the purity of commercial Iodides and Bromides, other than the Iodide of Potassium. Accepted by H. Matthews.

67. Report on the strength and condition of commercial specimens of such mercurial preparations as Mercury with Chalk, Mercurial Ointment, &c. Accepted by J. Coupland.

70. On commercial Pepsine. Accepted by J. C. Brough and J. C. Braithwaite.

75. Examination of various specimens of Citrate of Iron and Quinine. Continued by J. C. Braithwaite.

76. Chloroform, Ether, Sweet Spirits of Nitre, and Sal Volatile are often prepared from Methylated Spirit. Required, tests or reliable methods whereby they may be proved to have been so prepared. Accepted by J. Tuck.

77. Report on the purity of commercial Tartar Emetic. Accepted by J. C. Brough.

81. Report on the purity of commercial powders of ginger and cinchona. By F. M. Rimmington.

Several other papers are promised.

It is hoped that each member of the British Pharmaceutical Conference will suggest subjects for investigation, work upon subjects suggested by himself or by others, contribute information tending to throw light on questions relating to adulterations and impurities, collect and forward specimens whose examination would afford similar information, *or in some other way to aid in the advancement of pharmacy.* Any new facts that are discovered during an investigation may be at once published by an author at any meeting of a scientific society, in any scientific journal, or in any other way he may desire; in that case he is expected to send a short report on the subject to the annual meeting.

The current list of subjects requiring investigation is sent to members immediately after their election, and a new list immediately after every annual meeting. The list for 1864-1865, containing several questions at present unaccepted, can be obtained of either of the Honorary General Secretaries—Dr. Attfield, 17, Bloomsbury-square, London, W.C., and Mr. R. Reynolds, F.C.S., 13, Briggate, Leeds; or of the Local Secretary, Mr. W. Southall, junr., 17, Bull-street, Birmingham.

The future annual meetings will probably be held at the time and place of the visit of the British Association.

Gentlemen desiring to join the Conference must be nominated by two Members. The yearly subscription is five shillings, due in advance, on the 1st of July.

ALKALI WORKS.

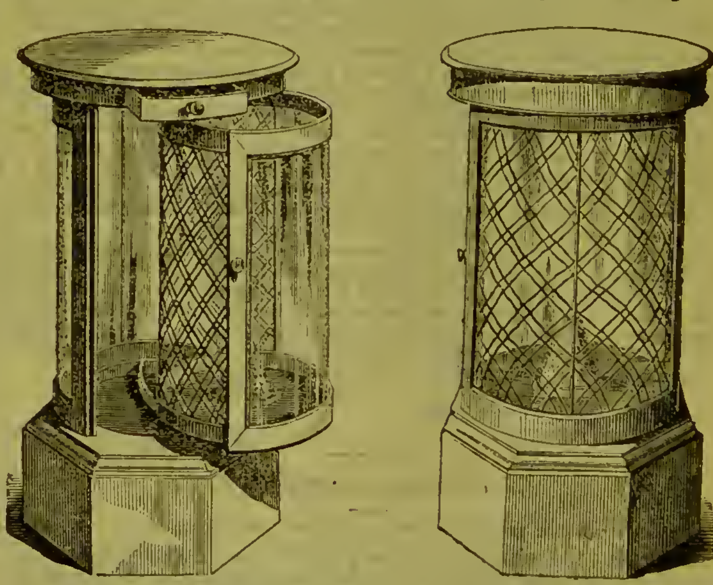
Dr. Angus Smith has presented his first report under the Alkali Works Act of 1863. It is a singularly satisfactory report. If the escape of hydrochloric acid is less than 5 per cent., the Act has been perfectly successful, and already there is not in his list an instance in which the escape amounts to 5 per cent. The average is but 1·28 per cent.; 26 works are condensing 100 per cent. When the inspection began, 40 per cent. of the gas was in some instances allowed to escape, and 16 was a very common amount. The alkali makers themselves seem surprised at the ease with which the condensation is effected. Dr. Smith describes the method of inspection and testing, and the measure adopted for condensation. The owner of one large establishment states that for the last four years he paid £150 a year for damages done by the escape of the acid gas. The expense of his alterations to bring condensation within the requirements of the Act has been £300, and, considering this as capital, condensation is a saving of expense. In some cases the hydrochloric acid sent into the atmosphere was actually much wanted in the works for the production of chlorine. Dr. Smith feels quite unable to say anything regarding the change in the neighbourhood of alkali works, or the effect on the growing crops. Several letters as early as last summer gave a favourable account of roses which grew where none had grown for years, and of fruit trees which had begun to blossom after having long ceased. A meeting of farmers in the neighbourhood of some large alkali works decided unanimously that the gain had been great, and some land agents around gave a similar opinion. Still, we must remember that the last was an unusual summer, and it would be well to wait for a repetition of the results. Vegetation is peculiarly sensitive. Mr. Balmain, in St. Helen's, after passing gas from his condenser through nitrate of silver, led it among growing flowers covered with a glass shade. These flowers appeared healthy for a fortnight, but suddenly they all died; a less perfect condensation had occurred for a short time, but so delicate were the flowers that, although they clearly showed this difference, it could not be traced by any other method. As attention has been given in the first instance to the condition of the large works, Dr. Smith had not been able at the date of this report to consider the case of a few alkali makers who decompose a small amount of common salt in London, and claim to be exempt from inspection.

MANURE WORKS.

A copy has been printed for the information of Parliament of a report by Dr. Letheby and Mr. Bazalgette, of the Metropolitan Board of Works, after the inspection of certain manure and chemical works in the neighbourhood of the northern and southern outfalls of the main drainage of the metropolis. The result of their inspection is that large and very offensive operations are carried on in the neighbourhood of both the northern and southern outfalls; and that the putrid and other vapours emitted from the works are diffused into the atmosphere and wafted to a considerable distance. No precautions whatever are in use to prevent the escape of the noxious effluvia, and it is a question whether the effluvia may not be a serious nuisance to the workpeople who will have to reside at the drainage works.

NEW SPONGE CASE.

Messrs. George Treble and Son have devised a show-case for sponges, which is highly ornamental and most convenient. Its construction is shown in our engraving. The top is a circular slab of marble, intended for holding lemonade bottles or any other articles in frequent demand. The sponges are placed in a kind of cage, which revolves on an axis in such a way that its contents can be got at without lifting the marble top or opening a door. A cone of perforated metal for containing wet sand is fixed at the bottom of the case.



The Case of Poisoning near Maidstone.—With reference to this case, which was noticed by us last month, the *Chemical News* states that the poison described as oil of almonds was really pure nitro-benzol. What remained in the bottle was sent to Dr. Letheby for examination, and its true nature was determined. It is only fair to the druggist who sold it to say that the bottle was distinctly labelled "Oil of Almonds for scenting pomatum." Our contemporary thinks it would be safer to use the familar term Essence of Mirbane, instead of oil of almonds, for nitro-benzol.

Correspondence

THE TWO SOCIETIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

SIR,—The conference held in Bloomsbury-square on the 17th, by representatives of the two Societies, although unattended with any practical result, has nevertheless been of service. It illustrates more clearly than anything before the blunder the Pharmaceutical Society committed in refusing, in March last, to meet for the purpose of adopting a Bill which would unite the trade into one body. Had they consented to discuss the differences between the two Societies, they would not have suffered the ignoble defeat which has since attended all their transactions; so confident were they of success, that they despised the Society they are now called upon to act on an equality with. The United Society, contemned and slandered, has continued its independent course. Its principles, which were right and just, have enabled it to surmount all difficulties. Its chief aim has been to secure freedom to all in business, to oppose any interference from either the Medical Council or the Pharmaceutical Society, and to restrict the trade in future to examined members. That they have succeeded will be seen by the resolution of the Select Committee.

On the second reading of the Pharmacy Bills it was apparent that two very opposite motives guided their promoters. The United Society desired an investigation before a Select Committee, and the Pharmaceutical Society did all they could to prevent it; the sequel shows that both were actuated by feelings calculated to advance the interests of their constituents. The one desired to monopolize and control all for the benefit of a few; the other sought equality and freedom for all who claimed to be chemists and druggists. The Bill of the Pharmaceutical Society has been thrown out, and that of the United accepted as the basis of a new Act; the only cause which prevented its entire adoption being the money clauses contained therein, the Committee being unable to pass such into the hands of a society not previously incorporated by Act of Parliament. The Committee were agreed upon the principle of equal representation, and have decided that in the new Act every one shall have a voice in the election of the governing body and the distribution of its funds. The great feature of the United Society's Bill, which obtained the support of Government, the restriction of the sale of poisons, will be carried into effect; and although so many efforts have been made by the leaders of the Pharmaceutical Society, it remained for the United Society to point the way to success. Even now, the cry is heard both in Bloomsbury-square and in Scotland that "a lion is in the way,"—"that the question of the sale of poisons is a difficult one;" "yet it is very desirable that they should be confined to the trade," is the repeated cry: and there the question has been allowed to rest. This is the way that matters of vital interest are treated by the body that presumed to govern all. It is time that these obsolete notions were put aside, and that a little energy and spirit, consistent with the spirit of progress and the age, be adopted. It is time that the druggist of this country should see a course before him, making him otherwise than a fixture in his own shop, and a slave all his lifetime. We have been so accustomed to follow the steps of our forefathers, that we have scarcely dared to do as other trades have done. It is time for the druggist to better his position, by taking an interest in trade concerns, and placing such men on the governing board as will move with the times and advance their interests. The sale of poisons is a difficult question; but if all cannot be done that is necessary, much may be done that is desirable. And this is the plan of the United Society, not to attempt too much, but only that which is practicable.

It is fully proved, that if a few earnest men, actuated by right principles, display a sufficiency of energy and perseverance to fulfil an object, they are likely to succeed. If, upon the passing of the new Act, the United Society is no longer needed, it will ever be a gratification to its supporters to reflect, that in four years it performed a greater service than the Pharmaceutical, which, after twenty-four years' existence, failed in its purpose, and did nothing for the trade at large.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
JOHN WADE.

100, York-street, Westminster,
June 9th, 1865.

COUNTER PRACTICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

SIR,—That blessed bantling, "the public," if we are to judge by the deeds of medical practitioners, has not yet arrived at years of discretion. It is not capable of judging for itself; therefore they must nurse and fondle it still, and they must decide for it in all matters pertaining to its mental and physical health. No outsiders, be their privileges old as Adam, must come between them and their child. The two Bills now passing the ordeal of Parliamentary Committee have stirred up medical men. In the *Lancet*, May 27th, we find a letter and a petition bearing on the subject. The letter, while lauding the accuracy of dispensing druggists, is full of fear, lest the fact of licensing chemists and druggists should lead to their practising medicine, and lead the public to look upon them as a species of doctors, competent to treat trifling complaints. To prevent such a calamity, Parliament is to be petitioned to insert a clause for preventing registered druggists practising medicine or surgery, and another for preventing the sale of any quack nostrum, without lodging a sworn certificate of its composition with the registrar appointed under the Bill. Now all this fuss is made for the "public weal," of course. Alas! is man so perfect all at once? Is there no cliquism, no monopoly at the bottom? We venture to affirm that the public is well qualified to judge for itself; and its judgment has been, and will be, for liberty. Chemists have not done the evil assigned to them, or the cry to stop their practice would be needless. The very cry shows weakness. Were the medical men so perfect and safe, as they desire the public to think they are, this outcry against a humbler section of the profession would be the height of folly. But these gentlemen assert to Parliament that we are neither qualified by law nor by education. By custom, long before law gave the M.D. his qualification, we possessed the right, in our own homes, to advise what drugs we might think best. By education, many of us are qualified above even our aspiring opponents. It is not a sin, surely, that druggists are consulted. The very fact of thousands, yea millions, running for small ailments to neighbouring druggists is proof positive that some good is obtained. We do not covet the surgeon's or physician's practice, nor do we run after it; but we must stick to our privileges behind our own counters: and it is folly in our medical friends to set themselves in opposition to a very large section of druggists, who always can be helpers and friends where they are appreciated. Those chemists who side with the Medical Council know little or nothing of a country druggist's life.

Yours truly,
SAMUEL HALL.

NOTES & QUERIES

W. D. C. (Salop).—The best process is a secret one. The method usually described in works on pharmacy consists in constantly stirring an evaporating solution of the salt from the time it begins to thicken until the whole of the water is driven off.

"*Argentum.*"—A weak solution of hydrosulphate of ammonia is often used.

"*Apprentice*" (Stourbridge).—Liq. potassæ deprives both tinctures of their medicinal properties. According to Dr. Garrod, the active principle in ʒj of tincture of henbane is entirely destroyed by ten drops of ordinary liq. potassæ.

James Bowker.—Arsenious acid is generally used for this purpose, but we need hardly say that its employment is attended with danger. Beasley states that a nerve-destroying paste may be made with arsenious acid 30 grains, sulphate of morphia 20 grains, and creasote q.s., but warns his readers that it is a very dangerous agent.

A subscriber is desirous of purchasing the first volume of the CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. He has the whole of the second volume excepting two numbers.

GULLIBILITY OF THE PUBLIC.—A Pharmacien of Paris has lately introduced a *spécialité*, which, under the name of *Oleomorrhuine*, and a label ambiguously worded, purports to supply the public with cod liver oil in the form of a colourless, saccharine powder, declared to be more efficacious than all the cod liver oil of commerce, as already proved by long experience! Notwithstanding its manifest absurdity, this powder (which is entirely devoid of the taste and smell of cod liver oil) finds eager purchasers, and is even prescribed by medical men. It is sold in little boxes at the modest price of 3½ and 6 francs each!—*Pharm. Journal.*

DR. SCHNEPP, in the *Comptes Rendus*, has suggested a new, and, it is said, successful treatment of pulmonary complaints, from cough to a consumption. His remedy is an intoxicating drink called *galazyme*, prepared from asses' milk. The idea of this preparation arose from the general belief that consumption is unknown among the nomadic inhabitants of the steppes of Russia, who are in the habit of drinking kumis, or fermented mares' milk.—*Reader.*

TRADE REPORT.

THE market for Chemicals during the last month has been dull, notwithstanding the cheap price of money and the settlement of the American war. Holders, however, look with confidence to better markets, and should the harvest be gathered well and turn out abundant, some improvement in prices may be expected. Only moderate sales have been made in Tartaric Acid at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 6¼d. There is more doing in Citric Acid at 1s. 10d., which is a lower price. Oxalic Acid remains quiet at 9½d. to 10d. Chlorate of Potass is in better demand, and prices are rather firmer at 13½d. to 14d. Sal Acetos is quiet at 11½d. to 12d. Bichromate in moderate demand at 6d. Prussiate of Potass is nominal at 11¼d. to 11½d. There has been rather more doing in Iodine at 6¼d. for seconds. Sulphate of Quinine is 3d. to 4d. lower; 1,500 ozs. Pelletier's sold last week at 5s. 3d.: the price is now 5s. 4d. English is nominal at 6s. A fair business has been done in Soda Crystal at 97s. 6d. to 100s., and Ash at 2¼.

x ship. Sulphate of Copper is dull at 27s. to 27s. 6d. A noderate business has been done in Alum at £7 to £7 5s. ulphate of Ammonia is quiet at 13s. to 13s. 9d. Bleaching Powder is dull at 10s. to 10s. 6d. Flour of Brimstone is teady at 12s. to 12s. 6d. Sal Ammoniac is quiet at 36s., nd first quality 37s. 6d. Refined Saltpetre is dull and lower, 9s. 6d. to 30s. cash f.o.b. Linseed Oil is better, and more oing: spot, 33s. 3d.; Hull, 32s. 6d.; and last six months, 3s. 6d. Rape has been in good demand, but is now quieter. Rosin is dull and much lower. Turpentine is again lower; ales of French on the spot made at 54s., and for oil 51s. to 1s. 6d. Petroleum is again dearer; English oil is worth s. 4½d. to 2s. 5d., and American 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 6d. Nothing one in Crude. No change in Ashes or Tar.

The market for Drugs has been very quiet, owing to the aces and holiday week, the trade continuing to purchase nly small lots out of the sales at previous terms. Rhubarb now quiet, and late prices cannot be obtained. All kinds f Quinine Barks are rather lower. Some parcels of Turkey pium of good quality sold at 13s. 6d. to 14s. East India um Arabic has sold at rather lower prices; Turkey sold at ood prices for good picked quality. Camphor advanced to 20s., but is again quiet. Balsam Capivi is dearer, and carce. Castor Oil is quiet; some fine pale Italian sold at 7d. 7¼d. East India Bees' Wax is firm, and some good yellow amaica sold at £9 17s. 6d. to £10. Kowrie Gum is 2s. to 3s. ower. Cod Liver Oil is quiet, but sales made at 4s. 6d. to s. 6d. for common to middling quality. Oil Cassia is dull at s. Tinnivelly Senna is ½d. per lb. dearer, 400 bales selling hiefly at 4d. to 6d. Shellac is fully 5s. to 10s. lower. linto has brought steady prices. Gambier is 1s. cheaper. alap is steady. Ipecacuanha is held for late rates. Sarsaarilla sold at steady prices. Cubebs were taken in at 90s. loes have brought former prices. Other goods no change.

PRICE CURRENT.

These quotations are the latest for ACTUAL SALES *in Mincing ane. It will be necessary for our retail subscribers to bear in nind that they cannot, as a rule, purchase at the prices quoted, nasmuch as these are the* CASH PRICES IN BULK. *They will, howver, be able to form a tolerably correct idea of what they ought to pay.*

	1865. s. d.	1865. s. d.	1864. s. d.	1864. s. d.
RGOL, Cape, per cwt.	80 0	97 6	87 6	105 6
French	60 0	85 0	60 0	84 0
Oporto, red	45 0	47 0	46 0	48 0
Sicily	72 6	75 0	74 0	77 0
Naples, white	68 0	76 0	65 0	80 0
Florence, white	85 0	90 0	87 6	95 0
red	80 0	85 0	80 0	85 0
Bologna, white	90 0	95 0	90 0	95 0
RROWROOT..(duty 4½ per cwt.)				
Bermuda..per lb.	1 4	1 7	1 4	1 9
St. Vincent	0 2¾	0 6¼	0 4½	0 8
Jamaica	0 3	0 6	0 4	0 6
Other West India	0 1	0 3	0 3	0 4½
Brazil	0 2½	0 3	0 2	0 3
East India	0 2¼	0 3½	0 3½	0 6
Natal	0 4	0 8¾	0 5½	0 8½
Sierra Leone	0 3½	0 4½	0 4	0 5½
SHES....per cwt.				
Pot, Canada, 1st sort	31 0	0 0	34 0	34 6
Pearl, ditto, 1st sort	31 0	31 6	35 0	0 0
RIMSTONE,				
rough....per ton	130 0	0 0	170 0	180 0
roll	195 0	210 0	215 0	220 0
flour	245 0	250 0	245 0	250 0
HEMICALS,				
Acid—Acetic, per lb.	0 4	0 0	0 4	0 0
Citric	1 10	1 10½	1 8½	1 8¾
Nitric	0 5	0 5½	0 5	0 5½
Oxalic	0 9½	0 10	0 10½	1 0
Sulphuric	0 0⅝	0 0¾	0 0⅝	0 0
Tartaric crystal	1 6	1 6¼	1 7¾	1 8
powdered	1 6½	1 7	1 8	1 8½
Alum per ton	140 0	145 0	122 6	135 0
powder	160 0	165 0	145 0	150 0
Ammonia, Carbonate, per lb.	0 5	0 5¼	0 5¾	0 6
Sulphate ......per ton	260 0	280 0	260 0	280 0
Antimony, ore	160 0	180 0	200 0	210 0
crude ......per cwt	24 0	25 0	26 0	0 0
regulus	34 0	35 0	36 0	37 0
French star	35 0	0 0	36 0	37 0
Arsenic, lump	15 0	15 6	15 0	15 6
powder	6 3	6 6	9 0	9 3
Bleaching powder	10 0	10 6	14 0	15 0
Borax, East India refined..	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
British	54 0	55 0	56 0	0 0
Calomel ....per lb.	2 8	0 0	2 11	0 0
Camphor, refined	1 6	1 7	1 5	0 0
Copperas, green ....per ton	52 6	55 0	52 6	55 0
Corrosive Sublimate, per lb.	2 3	0 0	2 3	0 0
Green Emerald	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Brunswick.... per cwt.	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
CHEMICALS.				
Iodine, dry .... per oz.	0 6¼	0 6½	0 6¾	0 7½
Magnesia, Carbon per cwt...	42 6	45 0	42 6	45 0
Calcined . per lb.	1 6	1 8	1 6	1 8
Minium, red ...... per cwt.	21 6	24 6	21 0	21 6
orange	32 6	33 0	32 6	33 0
Potash, Bichromate per lb.	0 6	0 0	0 7½	0 7¾
Chlorate	1 1½	1 2	1 2	0 0
Hydriodate..per oz.	0 5½	0 6½	0 6	0 6½
Prussiate....per lb.	0 11¼	0 11½	0 11½	0 11½
red	1 9	1 9½	1 10	1 11
Precipitate, red .... per lb.	2 9	0 0	3 0	0 0
white	2 9	0 0	3 0	0 0
Prussian Blue	1 0	1 10	1 0	1 10
Rose Pink ....per cwt.	29 0	0 0	29 0	0 0
Sal-Acetos ....per lb.	0 11½	1 0	1 0½	0 0
Sal-Ammoniac ....per cwt.				
British	36 0	37 6	36 0	37 6
Salts, Epsom	9 0	0 0	8 0	8 6
Glauber	5 0	5 6	5 0	5 6
Soda, Ash..........per deg.	0 2⅛	0 2¼	0 2⅛	0 2¼
Bicarbonate..per cwt.	11 3	0 0	12 0	12 3
Crystals ......per ton	97 6	0 0	0 0	97 6
Sugar Lead, white per cwt.	37 6	37 6	38 0	39 0
brown	26 0	26 6	28 0	29 0
Sulphate Quinine....per oz.				
British, in bottle ..	6 0	0 0	6 3	6 6
Foreign	0 0	5 4	5 10	6 0
Sulphate Zinc......per cwt.	14 6	15 0	14 6	15 0
Verdigris............per lb.	0 11	1 0	0 11	1 0
Vermilion, English	2 11	3 3	2 8	3 0
China	2 6	0 0	2 9	2 10
Vitriol, blue or Rom. per ct.	27 0	27 6	31 0	32 0
COCHINEAL, per lb.				
Honduras, black	3 0	4 6	3 3	4 7
silver	2 10	3 6	2 6	3 7
Mexican, black	3 2	3 5	3 5	3 9
silver	2 10	3 0	3 2	3 4
Lima	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Teneriffe, black	3 2	3 8	3 6	4 0
silver	2 10	3 2	3 3	3 6
DRUGS,				
Aloes, Hepatic ....per cwt.	100 0	170 0	100 0	170 0
Socotrine	170 0	300 0	170 0	300 0
Cape, good	42 0	43 0	45 0	47 0
inferior	25 0	41 0	30 0	42 0
Barbadoes	40 0	300 0	50 0	320 0
Ambergris, grey ....per oz.	22 0	24 0	15 0	19 0
Angelica Root ....per cwt.	20 0	35 0	20 0	35 0
Aniseed, China star	130 0	140 0	180 0	200 0
German, &c.	24 0	40 0	20 0	39 0
Balsam, Canada ....per lb.	0 10	0 0	0 11	0 0
Capivi	2 3	2 4	1 8	1 9
Peru	4 8	4 9	4 9	4 11
Tolu	3 4	0 0	3 6	3 7
Bark, Cascarilla....per cwt.	25 6	36 0	25 0	40 0
Peru, crown & grey per lb.	0 8	2 0	1 0	2 0
Calisaya, flat	2 10	3 4	3 0	4 0
quill	2 8	3 2	2 9	3 3
Carthagena	0 10	1 9	1 2	2 0
Pitayo	1 0	2 3	1 8	2 6
Red	3 0	11 0	2 6	8 9
Bay Berries........per cwt.	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Bucca Leaves........per lb.	0 4	0 10	0 3	1 0
Camomile Flowers	20 0	65 0	25 0	65 0
Camphor, China	115 0	120 0	95 0	100 0
Canella alba	23 0	33 0	23 0	35 0
Cantharides ....per lb.	2 2	2 3	2 4	2 6
Cardamoms, Malabar, good	6 3	7 0	5 6	6 0
inferior	4 3	5 9	4 6	5 8
Madras	3 0	5 9	3 3	5 0
Ceylon	3 5	4 6	5 0	5 2
Cassia Fistula......per cwt.	16 0	28 0	20 0	35 0
Castor Oil, 1st pale ..per lb.	0 6½	0 7	0 6	0 7½
2nd	0 5	0 6	0 4¾	0 5½
inferior and dark	0 4½	0 5	0 4¼	0 4½
Bombay, in casks	0 4¼	0 4¾	0 4¼	0 4¾
Castorum	1 0	20 0	1 0	20 0
China Root ....per cwt.	20 0	22 6	15 0	20 0
Cocculus Indicus	25 0	27 0	18 0	20 0
Cod Liver Oil ......per gal.	5 0	10 0	6 3	12 6
Colocynth, apple ....per lb.	0 7	1 0	0 7	1 0
Colombo Root ....per cwt.	160 0	210 0	90 0	120 0
Cream Tartar				
French	102 6	105 0	117 6	0 0
Venetian	105 0	107 6	120 0	0 0
grey	92 6	95 0	95 0	105 0
brown	85 0	92 6	85 0	92 6
Croton Seed	90 0	95 0	70 0	80 0
Cubebs	82 6	85 0	97 6	100 0
Cummin Seed	20 0	23 0	21 0	32 0
Dragon's blood reed	200 0	300 0	200 0	300 0
lump	70 0	260 0	90 0	260 0
Galangal Root	15 0	17 0	20 0	23 0
Gentian Root	21 0	22 0	18 0	19 0
Guinea Grains .... per cwt.	85 0	95 0	130 0	137 6
Honey, Narbonne	40 0	80 0	40 0	80 0
Cuba	25 0	33 0	26 0	38 0
Jamaica	25 0	60 0	27 0	63 0
Ipecacuanha ....per lb.	10 4	10 6	8 0	8 3
Isinglass, Brazil	1 8	4 6	1 10	4 6
East India	1 0	4 1	0 6	4 3
West India	3 0	3 4	3 2	3 4
Russian	9 0	10 8	9 6	11 0
Jalap	1 0	5 3	0 9	5 2

	1865.	1865.	1864.	1864.
DRUGS—*continued.*	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d
Juniper Berries ....per cwt.				
German and French ..	7 0	9 0	6 0	9 0
Italian	9 0	10 0	8 0	10 0
Lemon Juice ......per d·g.	0 0¾	0 0¾	0 0½	0 0¾
Liquorice ....per cwt.				
Spanish	75 0	80 0	80 0	83 0
Italian	55 0	70 0	80 0	90 0
Manna, flaky	2 0	2 6	2 7	2 9
small	1 2	1 4	1 4	0 0
Musk ....per oz.	20 0	32 0	22 0	34 0
Nux Vomica	11 6	14 6	12 0	15 6
Opium, Turkey	11 0	14 0	18 0	20 0
Egyptian	0 0	0 0	10 0	16 0
Orris Root ......per cwt.	29 0	31 0	26 0	30 0
Pink Root .... per lb.	3 0	0 0	3 0	3 0
Quassia (bitter wood) per ton	65 0	0 0	85 0	105 0
Rhatany Root ......per lb.	0 5	1 6	1 0	1 9
Rhubarb, China, round	3 0	9 0	2 9	6 0
flat	4 6	9 0	3 0	6 3
Dutch, trimmed ..	10 0	11 0	0 0	0 0
Russian	12 0	14 0	12 6	13 0
Saffron, Spanish	30 0	33 0	32 0	34 6
Salep.............. per cwt.	130 0	0 0	140 0	145 0
Sarsaparilla, Lima	1 0	1 4	1 0	1 5
Para	0 11	1 1	0 11	1 2
Honduras	0 11	1 6	0 11	1 6
Jamaica	1 3	2 8	1 0	2 3
Sassafras ....per cwt.	15 0	16 0	14 0	15 0
Scammony, virgin ..per lb.	30 0	35 0	32 0	38 0
second	12 0	23 0	12 0	23 0
Seneka Root	2 10	3 0	3 6	4 0
Senna, Calcutta	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Bombay	0 4	0 0	0 3½	0 4½
Tinnevelly	0 4	1 3	0 4	1 6
Alexandria	0 3½	0 9	0 3½	0 8
Snake Root	4 0	0 0	5 0	6 0
Spermaceti, refined	0 10	1 1	1 0	1 1
Squills	0 1½	0 3	0 0¾	0 2½
Tamarinds, E. India, per cwt.	16 0	17 0	20 0	22 0
West India	10 0	22 0	15 0	28 0
Terra Japonica—				
Gambier ....per cwt.	21 0	27 0	26 6	27 0
Cutch	24 0	25 0	26 0	26 6
Valerian Root, English	20 0	29 0	20 0	30 0
Vanilla, Mexican......per lb.	26 0	38 0	26 0	28 0
Wormseed..........per cwt.	10 0	0 0	11 0	12 0
GUM—Ammoniac, drop, per cwt.	95 0	170 0	100 0	120 0
lump	35 0	85 0	30 0	85 0
Animi, fine pale	200 0	230 0	200 0	210 0
bold amber..........	190 0	220 0	190 0	210 0
medium	160 0	180 0	160 0	180 0
small and dark	100 0	150 0	100 0	155 0
ordinary dark	40 0	95 0	40 0	95 0
Arabic, E. I., fine pale picked	80 0	85 0	70 0	84 0
unsorted, good to fine	64 0	75 0	54 0	68 0
red and mixed	50 0	60 0	40 0	50 0
siftings	25 0	40 0	20 0	30 0
Turkey, picked, good to fine	130 0	170 0	120 0	160 0
second and inferior.	65 0	120 0	65 0	110 0
in sorts	32 0	50 0	32 0	50 0
Gedda	39 0	40 0	33 0	37 0
Barbary, white	70 0	75 0	57 0	64 0
brown	42 0	47 0	45 0	47 0
Australian..................	30 0	40 0	28 0	29 0
Assafœtida, fair to good	30 0	75 0	38 0	75 0
Benjamin, 1st quality	850 0	950 0	350 0	630 0
2nd „	280 0	300 0	280 0	300 0
3rd „	50 0	240 0	50 0	240 0
Copal, Angola, red	70 0	82 0	85 0	95 0
pale	80 0	90 0	85 0	90 0
Benguela	55 0	80 0	80 0	95 0
Sierra Leone .. per lb.	0 3	0 10	0 4	1 0
Manilla...... per cwt.	25 0	38 0	25 0	55 0
Dammar, pale ......per cwt.	34 0	48 0	35 0	45 0
Galbanum	160 0	170 0	100 0	120 0
Gamboge, picked, pipe	250 0	300 0	150 0	190 0
in sorts	140 0	240 0	80 0	140 0
Guaiacum............per lb.	1 0	2 0	0 6	1 6
Kino .... per cwt.	300 0	500 0	320 0	500 0
Kowrie	22 0	50 0	20 0	45 0
Mastic, picked ...... per lb.	8 0	9 0	4 6	5 0
Myrrh, gd. and fine, per cwt.	130 0	180 0	140 0	180 0
sorts..................	70 0	120 0	70 0	130 0
Olibanum, pale drop	68 0	75 0	78 0	91 0
amber and yellow	58 0	65 0	58 0	76 0
mixed and dark..	17 0	44 0	18 0	45 0
Senegal	72 6	80 0	75 0	80 0
Sandrac	77 6	100 0	80 0	100 0
Tragacanth, leaf	180 0	260 0	180 0	260 0
in sorts	100 0	130 0	100 0	130 0
OILS..................per tun	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
Seal	40 0	48 0	42 0	48 0
Sperm, body..................	90 0	0 0	72 0	75 0
Cod	51 0	0 0	51 0	52 0
Whale, Greenland	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
South Sea, pale......	42 0	44 10	42 0	48 0
East India Fish......	30 0	0 0	37 0	40 0
Olive, Galipoli ...... per ton	51 0	0 0	61 0	62 0
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Florence, half-chest ..	20 0	0 0	20 0	21 0
Cocoanut, Cochin ..per cwt.	44 0	44 6	40 0	41 0
Ceylon	42 6	43 6	37 6	38 6
Sydney	36 0	39 6	34 0	38 6
Ground Nut and Gin.				
Bombay	38 0	0 0	38 6	40 0
OILS—*continued.*	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Madras ....per cwt.	36 6	37 0	40 0	0 0
Palm, fine	36 0	36 6	35 0	36 0
Linseed	32 9	33 3	38 0	39 0
Rapeseed, English, pale	44 0	45 0	43 0	43 6
brown	42 6	0 0	41 6	42 6
Foreign pale	45 0	46 0	45 6	46 0
brown	42 6	0 0	42 6	43 0
Lard	60 0	0 0	48 0	48 6
Tallow	38 0	0 0	41 0	41 6
Rock Crude .... per ton	£0 0	£18 0	£19 0	19 10
OILS, Essential—				
Almond, essential ....per lb.	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
expressed	0 10½	0 0	0 0	0 0
Aniseed	7 5	7 7	6 8	0 0
Bay ....per cwt.	0 0	0 0	110 0	120 0
Bergamot ....per lb.	10 0	14 0	7 0	10 0
Cajeputa, (in bond) ..per oz.	0 2½	0 2¾	0 2½	0 2¾
Caraway ....per lb.	5 0	6 6	4 3	5 6
Cassia	8 0	8 3	9 0	9 3
Cinnamon (in bond) ..per oz.	1 0	3 0	0 9	3 0
Cinnamon Leaf	0 6	0 8	0 2	0 4½
Citronel	0 4	0 4¾	0 5½	0 5¾
Clove	0 0	0 0	0 2	0 4
Croton	1 6	1 8	0 9	1 0
Juniper..............per lb.	2 0	2 6	1 10	3 0
Lavender	1 6	3 0	2 6	4 6
Lemon	7 6	9 0	5 6	7 0
Lemongrass..........per oz.	1 7	1 8	0 10½	0 11
Mace, ex.	0 1	0 2½	0 2	0 3½
Neroli	5 0	5 9	5 0	7 0
Nutmeg	0 1½	0 3	0 1	0 2½
Orange ....per lb.	5 6	6 5	5 6	6 9
Otto of Roses ....per oz.	18 0	22 6	16 0	24 0
Peppermint, per lb.				
American	15 0	13 6	9 0	12 9
English	0 0	0 0	34 0	36 0
Rhodium ....per oz.	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Rosemary ....per lb.	2 0	2 3	0 0	0 0
Sassafras	3 3	3 6	3 9	4 0
Spearmint	5 0	8 0	5 0	8 0
Spike	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Thyme	1 9	2 3	0 0	0 0
PITCH, British ......per cwt.	12 0	0 0	12 0	0 0
Swedish	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
SALTPETRE, per cwt.				
English, 6 per cent. or under	26 0	26 6	32 6	23 6
over 6 per cent.	25 0	26 0	30 6	32 0
Madras	23 0	25 0	30 6	32 6
Bombay......................	20 0	23 0	30 0	31 0
British-refined	29 0	30 0	37 0	38 0
Nitrate of soda..............	14 6	15 0	15 6	16 6
SEED, Canary ....per qr.	36 0	46 0	52 0	58 0
Caraway, English .. per cwt.	0 0	0 0	28 0	34 0
German, &c.	0 0	0 0	27 0	30 0
Coriander	0 0	0 0	10 0	14 0
East India........	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Hemp........................	44 0	46 0	40 0	44 0
Linseed, Black Sea..........	54 0	0 0	62 0	63 0
Calcutta	54 0	56 0	58 0	64 0
Bombay	57 0	58 0	64 0	65 0
Egyptian	52 0	0 0	62 0	0 0
Mustard, brown....per bshl.	6 0	10 0	7 0	12 0
white	11 0	13 0	7 0	9 0
Poppy, East India....per qr.	49 6	51 0	54 0	55 0
Rape, English	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Danube	61 0	62 0	0 0	0 0
Calcutta fine..........	58 0	59 0	57 0	60 0
Bombay	70 0	71 0	66 0	70 0
Teol, Sesmy or Gngy.........	58 0	62 0	58 0	63 0
Cotton ....per ton	130 0	0 0	150 0	152 6
Ground Nut Kernels per ton	270 0	0 0	300 0	310 0
SOAP, London yel. .. per cwt.	28 0	32 0	20 0	34 0
mottled	32 0	36 0	24 0	36 0
curd	46 0	50 0	46 0	50 0
Castile	40 0	42 0	40 0	41 0
Marseilles	40 0	42 0	40 0	42 0
Soy, China ....per gal.	3 3	3 6	2 9	3 0
Japan	1 5	0 0	0 0	0 0
Sponge, Turkey, fine picked	19 0	23 0	19 0	23 0
fair to good	7 0	17 0	7 0	17 0
ordinary ..	2 6	6 0	2 6	4 0
Bahama ..	0 4	1 3	0 4	1 3
TURPENTINE, Rough, per ct.	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Spirits, French	54 0	55 0	70 6	71 0
American, in casks	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
WAX, Bees, English	175 0	180 0	170 0	175 0
German	180 0	190 0	162 6	185 0
American	185 0	0 0	175 0	0 0
white fine	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Jamaica	195 0	200 0	185 0	192 6
Gambia	190 0	195 0	175 0	195 0
Mogadore	110 0	170 0	130 0	167 6
East India..............	150 0	190 0	150 0	180 0
ditto, bleached	200 0	220 0	200 0	240 0
vegetable, Japan	56 0	68 0	56 0	66 0
WOOD, DYE, per ton				
Fustic, Cuba..........	170 0	180 0	160 0	170 0
Jamaica	105 0	130 0	125 0	130 0
Savanilla	120 0	0 0	125 0	0 0
Zante	0 0	0 0	140 0	110 0
Logwood, Campeachy	180 0	200 0	190 0	200 0
Honduras ..	100 0	0 0	105 0	110 0
St. Domingo	75 0	80 0	90 0	0 0
Jamaica	80 0	82 6	80 0	82 6